FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-069
Tuesday
13 April 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-069 *13 April 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

G-7 Sets Schedule for Tokyo Talks on Russian Aid *[KYODO]* 1
Russia's Fedorov Arrives in Tokyo *[Moscow Radio]* 1
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Attends Disarmament Conference *[ITAR-TASS]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Mori Hopes for 'Appropriate Action' on Yen *[KYODO]* 3
Ministers Voice Concern Over Yen's Rise *[KYODO]* 3
FY '92 Trade Surplus Hits Record $111 Billion *[KYODO]* 3
Muto, Christopher Agree on Need for New Forum *[KYODO]* 4
Muto: Russian Aid Priority Over Islands Issue *[KYODO]* 5
    Declares End To 'Linkage' Policy *[KYODO]* 5
Tokyo To Offer $1.8-Billion in Aid to Russia *[KYODO]* 5
Miyazawa Supports Rescheduling of Yeltsin Visit *[KYODO]* 5
Official: Yeltsin Lacks 'Diplomatic Etiquette' *[KYODO]* 6
Tokyo To Assist Russia in Radioactive Storage *[MONTSAME]* 6
Matsuura Receives Russian Finance Minister *[KYODO]* 7
Trade Insurance 'Stimulus' to Deals With Russia *[KYODO]* 7
Tokyo To Send Diesel Fuel to Disputed Islands *[KYODO]* 8
Muto Avoids Making 'Clear Judgment' on Cambodia *[Tokyo TV]* 8
Hiyoshi Hints at Arming SDF Troops in Cambodia *[Tokyo TV]* 9
MITI To Tighten Weapons-Related Exports *[Tokyo TV]* 9
Political Reform Bills Debate Begins in Diet *[KYODO]* 9
LDP Submits 13.2-Trillion-Yen Economic Package *[KYODO]* 10
    LDP Announces Gist of Package *[KYODO]* 10
    Cabinet Meeting Endorses Package *[KYODO]* 10
    Package Shows 'Shift in Emphasis' *[KYODO]* 11
    Package To Benefit 'Livelihood' *[Tokyo TV]* 12
    Business Leaders 'Pleased' *[KYODO]* 13
    Hayashi Calls Plan 'Powerhouse' *[KYODO]* 13
    To Make Growth Target 'Certain' *[KYODO]* 14
Auto Firms Study Tokyo Employment Subsidies *[KYODO]* 14

North Korea

Reaction to Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Continues 15
    Radio Denounces IAEA Resolution *[Pyongyang Radio]* 15
    Paper Denounces UN Nuclear Discussion *[KCNA]* 16
    Paper Denounces Japan Position on Issue *[KCNA]* 16
Vice-Premier Meets Visiting Cuban Delegation *[KCNA]* 16
    Cuban Envoy Hosts Reception *[KCNA]* 17
DPRK To Send Relief Supplies to Cuba *[KCNA]* 17
Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea Arrives *[KCNA]* 17
    Delegation Feted *[KCNA]* 18
    Meets Premier Kang Song-san *[KCNA]* 18
    Meets Kim Il-song *[KCNA]* 18
Choe Tae-pok Meets CIS Trade Union Confederation Group *[KCNA]* 18
MINJU CHOSON Denounces Japan for 'Bribing' Press *[KCNA]* 19

Group Discusses 'Comfort Women' With Japanese Premier *[KCNA]* 19
Kim Il-song Receives LPRP Delegation 8 Apr *[KCNA]* 19
    Delegation Returns Home 10 Apr *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19
Kim Il-song Invites Cambodia's Sihanouk for Visit *[KCNA]* 19
Vice President Meets Bangladesh House Speaker *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19
SPA Receives Pakistani Parliamentary Group *[KCNA]* 20
Envoy Presents Credentials to Cape Verde President *[Pyongyang Radio]* 20
Support for Kim Il-song's 10-Point Program Continues 21
    Kye Ung-tae Supports Program *[KCNA]* 21
    Pak Song-chol Supports Program *[Pyongyang Radio]* 21
    Daily Stresses Unity in Program *[Pyongyang Radio]* 22
Kim Tal-hyon Comments on Kim Chong-il Election *[Pyongyang Radio]* 25
Foreign Delegations Arrive for Kim Il-song's Birthday *[KCNA]* 26
Tourist Season Begins in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* 26
PYONGYANG NEWS Begins Publication in Japan *[KCNA]* 26
KCNA Reviews 12 April NODONG SINMUN 26
Correction to Finance Minister on State Budget 27

South Korea

PRC, USSR Said To Turn Down DPRK Nuclear Request in 1960's *[YONHAP]* 27
FKI Drops Plan To Invite DPRK Premier to Meeting *[YONHAP]* 28
Barbed-Wire To Be Removed From Coastlines *[YONHAP]* 28
Seoul Prepares for Possiblity of Los Angeles Riots 28
    Consul-General Returns to L.A. *[YONHAP]* 28
    Ministry Forms Task Force *[YONHAP]* 28
Envoy: U.S. 'Might Not' Name Seoul PFC *[YONHAP]* 28
Envoy to PRC No Chae-won Returns to Seoul 13 Apr *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 13 Apr]* 29
Exports to PRC Increase 155 Percent Over 1992 *[YONHAP]* 29
Kim Rules Out Constitutional Change During Term *[YONHAP]* 29
Presidential Task Force Formed To Push Reform Programs *[YONHAP]* 29
NSP To Stop Phone Taps, Mail Opening *[YONHAP]* 30
Minister Details Philosophy on Financial Reform *[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN 6 Apr]* 30
Plan To Restructure Financial System Detailed *[THE KOREA TIMES 10 Apr]* 31
38% of Taejon Expo Village Housing Reserved *[YONHAP]* 33
Kia Motors To Demonstrate Solar Car at Taejon Expo *[YONHAP]* 33
Daewoo Telecom Develops 'Speediest' Accelerator Chip *[YONHAP]* 33
ROK Develops New Multimedia Personal Computer *[YONHAP]* 33
Scientists Claim To Develop Nonpolluting Fertilizer *[YONHAP]* 34

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

UMNO Supports Rally Against Kelantan Ruler *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 35
    20 Arrested at Rally *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 35
Group Delivers Protest Note to Kelantan Sultan *[NEW SUNDAY TIMES 11 Apr]* 35
Mahathir Discusses Expelling USNO From BN *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 36
Recruitment of Foreign Workers To Stop 11 April *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 36
Melaka State, Singapore Sign Economic Accord *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 36

Singapore

Daily Views Election Prospects in Cambodia *[THE STRAITS TIMES 12 Apr]* 36
Military Exercises With Malaysia End 7 April *[THE STRAITS TIMES 8 Apr]* 37

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Reports KR Attack on U.S. MIA Team 37

Human Rights Groups Allege Voter Intimidation *[AFP]* 38
Election Workers: Khmer Rouge 'Jeopardize' Polls *[AFP]* 38
Spokesman Views Political Situation *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 39
Government Tries To Counter 'Wild' Currency Shifts *[PHNOM PENH POST 26 Mar-8 Apr]* 40
Sihanouk, UNDP Sign $7.1-Million Aid Program *[SPK]* 41
Commentary Warns of Postelection Instability, War *[Radio VGNUFC]* 42
Khieu Samphan Greets Sihanouk on New Year *[Radio VGNUFC]* 42
Hun Sen Addresses Voters in Kandal Province *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 43

Laos

Party Delegation Receives CPC Cadres' Delegation *[Vientiane Radio]* 53
President Conveys New Year Greetings to Nation *[Vientiane Radio]* 53

Philippines

U.S. To Remove Country From Special 301 Watchlist *[Quezon City TV]* 54
UNTAC Troops Face Gun-Smuggling Charges *[Quezon City TV]* 54
Article Discusses Rebels' Peace Talks Demands *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 11 Apr]* 54
Drive Against NPA Focuses on Northeast Mindanao *[Quezon City TV]* 55

Thailand

UN Secretary General Views Cambodia, SRV Visits *[Radio VOFA]* 56
Chuan Confident of Government's Stability *[BANGKOK POST 12 Apr]* 56
Editorial: Opposition Should Follow 'Rules' *[BANGKOK POST 13 Apr]* 56
Paper Views Chatchai's 'Smooth' Political Role *[THE SUNDAY POST 11 Apr]* 57
BOI Reports Improved Investment Situation *[Bangkok Radio]* 58
Paper Sees Rice Issue as Opening for Opposition *[THE NATION 13 Apr]* 58
Businessman Views Japanese Investment Prospects *[BANGKOK POST 13 Apr]* 59
Saudi Prince 'Satisfied' With Police Effort *[BANGKOK POST 13 Apr]* 60
NSC Chief Receives Israeli Secretary *[Bangkok Radio]* 60
Trade Official: 'No Common Ground' at Coffee Talks *[THE NATION 10 Apr]* 61

Vietnam

Reportage on Reaction to Document on U.S. POW's 61
  Official Challenges Authenticity *[AFP]* 61
  Spokesman Rejects 'Groundless' Report *[KYODO]* 62
Radio Views U.S. Envoy's Aims for Upcoming Visit *[Hanoi International]* 62
U.S. Said Considering Lifting Loan Restriction *[Hanoi International]* 62
Hanoi Comments on Muskie Delegation Visit *[Hanoi International]* 62
Americans in Hanoi Reportedly Urge End to U.S. Embargo *[Hanoi International]* 63
Reportage, Commentary on UN Chief's Visit 63
  Butrus-Ghali Arrives 11 April *[Hanoi International]* 63
  Meets Leading Officials *[VNA]* 63
  Talks With Nguyen Manh Cam *[Hanoi Radio]* 63
  Outcome of Visit Hailed *[Hanoi International]* 64
  Premier, Secretary General Meet *[Hanoi Radio]* 64
  Butrus-Ghali Addresses News Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* 65
VNA Cites Sihanouk Reply to Premier's Letter 66
Foreign Ministry Condemns Cambodia Killings *[AFP]* 66
Radio Views Khmer Rouge Attacks on UN Forces *[Hanoi International]* 66
UNHCR: Vietnamese Exodus From Cambodia Slowing *[AFP]* 67
Radio Faults KR for 'Sabotaging' Paris Accord *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
Envoy to Iraq Meets With Friendship Committee *[VNA]* 68
Phan Van Khai Addresses Sixth VFF Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* 68
Politburo Members Inspect Party Renovation Results *[Hanoi Radio]* 69
Seminar Held for Private Entrepreneurs *[VNA]* 69
Paper Calls for Elimination of Prostitution *[Hanoi Radio]* 69

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Protesters Breach Fence at U.S. Military Station *[Melbourne International]* 70
    200 Protesters Arrested *[Melbourne International]* 70
    Evans: U.S. Bases Serve Arms Control Role *[AFP]* 70
    Total of 277 Protesters Arrested *[Melbourne International]* 70
    Democrats Seek Security Inquiry *[Melbourne International]* 70
Peacekeepers To Leave if KR Stage 'Major' Assault *[AFP]* 70
Polls Show Growing Support for Republic *[AFP]* 71
    66 Percent of Citizens Want Republic *[AFP]* 72
Canberra 'Cannot Take Sides' Between PNG, Solomons *[Melbourne International]* 72

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Rebels Offer Cease-Fire to Government *[Melbourne International]* 72
Wingti To Visit Australia To Improve Relations *[Melbourne International]* 73

Solomon Islands

Tension Eases Along PNG Border After 'Incursion' *[Melbourne International]* 73
Premier Seeks Canberra's Help Against PNG Raids *[Melbourne International]* 73

G-7 Sets Schedule for Tokyo Talks on Russian Aid

OW0904010593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0017 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 8 KYODO—Senior officials of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations announced Thursday [8 April] the formal schedule for next week's meeting of G-7 foreign and finance ministers in Tokyo to coordinate aid to Russia. The officials—personal representatives of the G-7 heads of government—made the announcement after two days of talks in Washington. They huddled for more than six hours working on the details of a concerted Western assistance program the G-7 ministers plan to unveil in Tokyo, Japanese sources said.

G-7 officials kept a tight lid on the proposed multilateral aid package but press reports have suggested that it could amount as much as 30 billion dollars. Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Koichiro Matsuura, who chaired the two-day preparatory meeting in Washington, said the officials will meet again in Tokyo on April 14 for a final round of preparations ahead of the G-7 ministerial conference.

According to the formal schedule released Thursday, the G-7 foreign and finance ministers will begin the two-day conference on the afternoon of April 14 and hold another session on the morning of April 15. Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will address the opening session. The two days of talks will focus on the political and economic situation in Russia, as well as G-7 support to reforms there, Matsuura said. The G-7 ministers will also discuss "future scenarios" of how the seven can help promote the Russian reform process, he said.

The two senior Russian officials invited to the Tokyo meeting—Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov—will join the G-7 group only for the final-day session.

Apart from laying the groundwork for the G-7 ministerial meeting, Matsuura also met with a number of senior U.S. officials to discuss bilateral relations ahead of Miyazawa's visit to Washington next week. He met with Robert Rubin, head of the Presidential Economic Council, and had a separate session with Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman and other key economic advisers to President Bill Clinton.

Japanese sources said the discussions centered on bilateral economic and trade relations, which will be a major focus in Miyazawa's meeting with Clinton in Washington on Friday next week [16 April].

Russia's Fedorov Arrives in Tokyo

LD1304062093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Fedorov, deputy chairman of Russia's government, who arrived in Tokyo today, expressed the hope that concrete results would be achieved at the conference of foreign affairs and finance ministers of the seven leading Western states on the problem of aid to Russia, which opens in the Japanese capital on Wednesday. The deputy premier noted that Moscow awaits comprehensive financial support for Russian reforms.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Attends Disarmament Conference

LD1304064993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0551 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo April 13 (TASS)—A four-day international conference on disarmament problems opened in Kyoto, Japan, today under the U.N. aegis. The topic of the conference is "Disarmament and Security Problems in the Interdependent World".

Some 90 statesmen, scientists and experts from 37 countries are taking part in this influential forum. Russia is represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The U.N. leadership is represented at the Kyoto conference by Stoyan Ganev, chairman of the 47th U.N. General Assembly session, and Vladimir Petrovsky, director of the U.N. office in Geneva.

Chairman of the U.N. Committee for Disarmament Pravoslav Davinic made a report at the conference, highlighting some important aspects of the problem of maintaining global security, specifically, the stabilisation of the situation on the territory of the former USSR and the termination of the civil war in Yugoslavia. He stressed that the current conference was of much practical importance especially for the Asia-Pacific region. In his opinion, one of its tasks is to work out methods of and approaches to the multilateral collective solution of regional problems, in the first place.

According to Davinic, the end of the "cold war" unfortunately affected the world situation in a negative way too, giving a new dimension to the overall state of instability, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. In this connection he mentioned a number of important problems which are typical of the region, for instance, territorial and border disputes, domestic conflicts, as well as "non-military" problems which are not linked directly with disarmament, but which are important for ensuring security in the Asia-Pacific region, specifically drug trafficking and the migration of refugees.

Parliamentary Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan Koji Kakizawa, who also spoke at the conference, called attention to the situation on the Korean peninsula following North Korea's announcement of its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. North Korea, which had taken part in the two previous U.N.

disarmament conferences, this time did not send its representative to Kyoto. Koji Kakizawa urged Pyongyang to revise its decision, because it may lead to the escalation of tension in the region.

Koji Kakizawa mentioned the problem of arms trade and suggested that the countries which are expanding their arms export capacities, should work out an effective system of control over that type of exports.

Japan

Mori Hopes for 'Appropriate Action' on Yen

OW1304024993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The yen's rise against the U.S. dollar on foreign exchange markets is too fast, Japan's trade minister said Tuesday. International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori told a news conference, "The gain of more than 11 yen in the past two months is too rapid."

Mori expressed concern over a possible bad impact on industries struggling due to the lingering economic slump. Calling for stable exchange rates, he said, "I hope for appropriate action by monetary authorities."

The U.S. currency opened at a record low of 112.67 yen in Tokyo on Tuesday, down 0.28 yen from Monday's close of 112.95 yen, which was a record closing low for the dollar in Tokyo. By midmorning it had sunk to 112.63 yen.

Ministers Voice Concern Over Yen's Rise

OW1304035393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan's trade and finance ministers voiced concern about the yen's rise against the U.S. dollar Tuesday, saying currency markets are too speculative and its jump in value is hurting Japanese companies.

The dollar opened Tokyo dealings at 112.67 yen Tuesday, down 0.28 yen from Monday's close of 112.95 yen, its record closing low in Tokyo. It sank further to a record intraday low of 112.61 yen, but recovered slightly to finish morning dealings at 112.68 yen.

Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said he will tell U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen on Wednesday morning about Japan's new pump-priming package and discuss bilateral economic matters.

Hayashi told a regular news conference after the day's cabinet meeting that the yen's advance will not be the "main topic," since he and Bentsen are already frequently in touch on that issue.

Japan is due to announce an economic stimulation program Tuesday evening that is expected to be a record 13 trillion yen, larger than last August's 10.7 trillion yen package.

Hayashi reiterated his view that the currency market movement is too nervous and perhaps speculative. He said authorities will take "appropriate actions" when needed and that this stance is shared by other Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations, including the United States.

But a Japanese Government source said there seems little possibility of prompt concerted moves by the central banks of Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations in foreign exchange markets, unless Japan succeeds in involving the U.S. by cutting its bilateral trade surplus.

The source said the U.S. seems cool toward joining moves to halt the yen's rapid rise against the dollar, and that Japan will have to take steps to protect small- and medium-sized companies from the effects of currency movements, especially in export industries.

Bentsen arrives in Tokyo on Tuesday for special meetings Wednesday and Thursday of G-7 finance and foreign ministers on aid to Russia.

International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori told a separate news conference that the yen's gain of more than 11 yen against the dollar in the past two months is "too rapid."

Mori expressed concern over a possible bad impact on industries struggling due to the lingering economic slump. Calling for stable exchange rates, he said, "I hope for appropriate action by monetary authorities."

FY '92 Trade Surplus Hits Record $111 Billion

OW1304085293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan's customs-cleared trade surplus vaulted 26.2 percent from a year earlier to a record 111.34 billion dollars in just-ended fiscal 1992, a result certain to bring further pressure from Japan's trading partners, official figures showed Tuesday. The Finance Ministry said in a report that exports in the financial year ended March 31 rose 7.4 percent to 344.41 billion dollars and imports, braked by the nation's sputtering economy, grew only 0.3 percent to 233.07 billion dollars.

The ministry's report also put the trade surplus in March at 13,783.7 million dollars, up 26.0 percent for the 27th successive month of gain. March exports expanded 15.4 percent to 35,019.9 million dollars, and imports rose 9.4 percent to 21,236.1 million dollars.

The latest trade report came as Japan's trading partners, increasingly impatient with Tokyo's bloated trade surplus, push Japan to do more to rev up its sagging economy and apparently welcome the recent upsurge of the yen against their currencies.

Speculation that other nations are happy with a strong yen has driven the yen up by around 10 yen against the U.S. dollar over the past two months. It hit a record 112.60 yen momentarily in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Though a high yen is regarded as contributing to denting exports as Japanese products become more expensive for

foreign buyers, economists say it will take a while before the effects of the lofty yen are reflected in the trade figures.

Takashi Kiuchi, chief economist of the long-term Credit Bank of Japan, said it is not unusual that a country's trade surplus increases when its economy is in recession.

In the case of Japan, however, Kiuchi said there are some unique aspects contributing to the rise such as Japan's strength in areas like automobiles and home electric appliances, where the market continues to grow, as well as its firm connection with the fast growing southeast Asian economies.

With respect to Japan's current account surplus, Kiuchi said the country's high savings rate and significant investment rate also contribute to the boosted surplus. "I had thought this was a typical phenomenon in Japan until I discovered later that similar trends began to appear in Southeast Asian countries," Kiuchi said. "Any nation experiencing high economic growth has a smooth circulation of funds between savings and investment."

Kiuchi said, however, the problem with the surplus is that the matter is taken up largely from a political point of view.

The appreciation of the yen against the dollar was the largest element boosting Japan's fiscal 1992 trade surplus to its record highs, a Finance Ministry official said. The average dollar rate plummeted 6.4 percent from the previous fiscal term to 125.15 yen.

Japan's surplus against the United States jumped 20.1 percent to 46.11 billion dollars after rising 0.8 percent the year before. The figure had been on the decline from fiscal 1987 to 1990.

Exports of office equipment, auto engines, semiconductors and electronic parts were firm, the ministry official said, and it seems that shipments of products contributing to the production of goods in the U.S. have increased.

The surplus against the European Community grew 9.0 percent and that against Asian nations by 31.5 percent. The surplus with the Asian newly industrializing economies (NIES) climbed 20.6 percent to 48.73 billion dollars, outstripping the surplus registered against the U.S.

Japan's surplus with the U.S. accounted for 41.4 percent of the total in fiscal 1992, slightly down from 43.5 percent the preceding year.

Overall shipments of automobiles slipped 2.1 percent in unit terms, but in terms of value, grew by 8.7 percent. Auto exports to the U.S. declined 11.0 percent in volume while those to the EC dropped 5.7 percent.

Meanwhile, automobile exports to the Asian NIES ballooned 29.8 percent.

The surplus for March was the highest ever for a single month as the export rate for the dollar plunged to 117.84 yen from 130.78 yen in March 1992, and there were two more business days last month than a year earlier, the ministry official said. He said exports of automobiles, vessels, and semiconductors increased, as did imports of crude oil.

Exports to the U.S. and Asia moved up 21.2 percent and 25.5 percent, respectively, while shipments to the EC fell 1.9 percent.

Muto, Christopher Agree on Need for New Forum

OW1304104693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Foreign Minister Kabun Muto and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher agreed Tuesday on the need to set up a new bilateral mechanism for comprehensive dialogue on economic and trade issues, Foreign Ministry officials said. Officials said the agreement came in about an hour of talks between Muto and Christopher, who arrived in Japan Tuesday to attend a two-day meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) foreign and finance ministers on emergency aid to Russia.

The officials said that Christopher welcomed the government's announcement earlier Tuesday of a 13.2 trillion yen package of economic stimulus measures for the current year, but urged Japan to continue such measures over several years.

Muto was quoted as telling his U.S. counterpart in their first meeting that Japan feels a need for a new mechanism to replace the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII), which was begun in 1989 to remove barriers to trade and investment.

Officials said Christopher replied that the U.S. also feels a new mechanism for policy coordination is necessary, adding that the idea should be explored by the two sides in further detail.

Miyazawa will likely discuss the issue in his talks in Washington with President Bill Clinton on Friday, officials said.

Muto did not have a concrete blueprint in mind when he brought up the subject, although the mechanism would bring in not only the Foreign Ministry but other government ministries as well, they said.

An official said he was not sure how broad the range of issues discussed under the proposed mechanism would be. He said whether exchange rates would be taken up was a "question mark" since the issue has traditionally been handled by finance ministries and central banks of the G-7 countries. The G-7 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Christopher was quoted as saying that while discussions on macroeconomic issues are indeed important, there is also a need for the two countries to tackle issues of a structural and sector-specific nature. He said that for the U.S.-Japan "partnership" to develop further, the two countries must resolve their economic problems, including the massive trade imbalance in Japan's favor.

Muto revealed to Christopher the figure for aid to Russia that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will announce in a speech at the start of the G-7 ministerial meeting on Wednesday morning.

In his arrival statement, Christopher called for action to help the Russian people and "build and preserve a new Russia."

Sources put the figure at 1.8 billion dollars in new bilateral assistance, which would make Japan's pledge the largest at the conference. The U.S. is expected to reiterate a recent pledge of 1.6 billion dollars.

Officials said Muto told Christopher that Japan is committed to helping ensure the success of Russia's economic and political reform being carried out under the leadership of President Boris Yeltsin. The absence of G-7 support, he said, runs the risk of allowing Russia to slide back into its Soviet past.

Christopher repeated Washington's support for Tokyo's claim to four Russian-occupied islands off Hokkaido that were seized by Soviet forces at the end of World War II. He said the U.S. hopes there will be some forward movement on resolving the territorial dispute when muto meets with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev for bilateral talks in Tokyo on Thursday.

The officials said Christopher offered assurances of a continued U.S. presence in the region as a "Pacific country." The secretary of state also said the new U.S. Administration looks forward to cooperating with Japan on a whole range of global, regional and bilateral issues.

Muto: Russian Aid Priority Over Islands Issue

OW1304015593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0139 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Aid to Russia has priority over settling a decades-long territorial dispute with Moscow, Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said Tuesday.

Muto, speaking at a news conference after the regular cabinet meeting, implied that Japan will not link bilateral aid to Russia with its call for the return of four islands off northern Japan that were seized at the end of World War II.

Declares End To 'Linkage' Policy

OW1304033893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0321 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan will no longer link extension of aid to Russia to parallel progress in resolving a bilateral territorial dispute, Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said Tuesday.

Muto said in a press conference that the "linkage" policy will be dropped considering the importance for Japan that Russia's market-oriented economic reforms and democratization efforts succeed. "Bilateral problems are strictly bilateral problems," he said, adding that the issue of aid to Russia is separate.

Muto, speaking ahead of a two-day Group of Seven (G-7) ministerial meeting on aid to Russia starting here Wednesday, said he believes "Japan should not be seen to be engaging in a transaction. If Russia fails in its reform and reverts to communism or something else, it would definitely not be a plus for world peace," he said, adding that it would be "dangerous."

Support for Russian reforms should "transcend everything," he said. But Muto said Japan will continue to press in bilateral negotiations for the return of the four Russian-occupied islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Asked if Japan was ending linkage of bilateral aid as well as multilateral aid, Muto said Japan's economic aid to Russia would be strictly in the context of multilateral efforts to support Russian reforms.

Japan's policy to now has been to link bilateral aid to the territorial dispute, while not linking multilateral aid, such as contributions through the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Muto said the word "linkage" is disliked by the Russians. "Japan should join other advanced countries to help Russia consolidate its free-market economic system."

Tokyo To Offer $1.8-Billion in Aid to Russia

OW1304043893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan will offer a 1.8 billion dollar aid package to Russia, topping the 1.6 billion dollars announced by the United States last week, government sources said Tuesday.

Japan will unveil the package at a two-day meeting of foreign and finance ministers from the group of seven major countries opening Wednesday, the sources said.

Miyazawa Supports Rescheduling of Yeltsin Visit

OW1304022493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0210 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Miyazawa on Tuesday welcomed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's remarks that he would reschedule a visit to Japan he canceled last September, probably for May. "I welcome it," Miyazawa said in a brief exchange with reporters at his official residence.

The date of Yeltsin's visit "may be clear after Foreign Minister (Andrey) Kozyrev comes here," he said. Yeltsin said in Moscow on Monday that Kozyrev will propose the rescheduling of the presidential visit in a meeting with Japanese Government officials in Tokyo later this week. He did not mention any specific date.

Kozyrev is due to arrive here Wednesday to attend a meeting of foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major countries to discuss aid to Russia.

Official: Yeltsin Lacks 'Diplomatic Etiquette'

OW1304062193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0535 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Tuesday welcomed plans by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to reschedule a visit to Tokyo—but a senior government official rapped Yeltsin for "not knowing the rules of diplomatic etiquette." Yeltsin gave Japan no advance notice of his intention to make the trip that he abruptly canceled last September. He indicated on Monday that he wants to visit in May.

Miyazawa told reporters that the foreign ministers of the two countries will discuss details at a special meeting Thursday in Tokyo.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Japan does not expect the visit to lead to an immediate resolution of a territorial dispute that has marred relations since World War II. But he said it will be important in improving mutual understanding.

"Under the current circumstances it is difficult to foresee whether we can resolve (the territorial dispute) at a single sitting. Rather it is important for both countries to understand each other, and then make efforts to seek a solution," Kono told a regular news conference.

He said Japan will not press Russia on the timing of a solution to the disagreement over ownership of four islands off Hokkaido, northern Japan, that were seized by the Soviet Army at the end of the war.

The conciliatory remarks come as Japan is preparing to host an emergency G-7 meeting of foreign and finance ministers on aid to Russia on Wednesday and Thursday.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrives Wednesday and will hold bilateral talks with his newly appointed counterpart, Kabun Muto.

Kono said he had not had sufficient time to analyze what factors were behind Yeltsin's unexpected statement on the visit, which he said was not conveyed to Japan in advance. The top government spokesman said he did not anticipate any difficulties arranging a meeting for may once both sides agree on a date.

On a related development, Kono said he does not regard comments by new Sakhalin Governor Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov as representative of Moscow's position that a solution to the islands dispute could take 50 to 100 years.

While Japanese leaders in official comments welcomed Yeltsin's initiative, one official expressed frustration at Russia's erratic diplomacy.

"Yeltsin didn't come when he was supposed to, and now he suddenly says he wants to visit. He doesn't know the rules of diplomatic etiquette," said a senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Yeltsin gave just four days notice when he canceled a visit in September, and then criticized Tokyo for its insistence on pushing for a resolution of the territorial dispute.

Japan has refused to provide full-fledged bilateral economic assistance to Russia unless the dispute is resolved. But the government, under international pressure to increase its support for Yeltsin, has disconnected the territorial row from providing assistance within an international framework.

Last month Japan invited Yeltsin to meet with G-7 leaders at their annual summit slated here for July 7 to 9. Besides Japan, the G7 members are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States.

Tokyo To Assist Russia in Radioactive Storage

OW1204135693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1343 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Japan will tell Russia this week it will offer technological assistance in the storing of nuclear materials like plutonium metal after the dismantling of nuclear weapons, government sources said Monday. The sources said the policy will be announced by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in a keynote address at the opening of a foreign and finance ministers' conference of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations on aid to Russia, due to start Wednesday in Tokyo.

Miyazawa will express Japan's readiness to offer about 1.2 billion dollars in emergency aid to Russia, including about 40 million dollars in such technological assistance and about 1 billion dollars in trade insurance coverage. The aid package will also include additional loans from the governmental Export-Import Bank of Japan and grant aid for humanitarian purposes.

The sources said Japan will transfer to Russia technology relating to a management and monitoring system in a nuclear materials storage facility to be built there. Japan will also provide Russia with knowhow on land-based storage of radioactive waste such as reactor parts, so as to enable Russia to stop dumping such waste in the Sea of Japan.

Matsuura Receives Russian Finance Minister

OW1304073293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0659 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Fedorov held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Koichiro Matsuura, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The details of the talks were not immediately known.

Fedorov arrived in Tokyo Tuesday to attend a meeting of foreign and finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries set for Wednesday and Thursday, spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents. Fedorov, who concurrently serves as finance minister, will be joined in Tokyo on Thursday morning by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to represent Russia at the ministerial on aid to Russia.

Matsuura is a Japanese "sherpa," or one of the seven personal representatives of G-7 leaders who prepare for the grouping's annual summits. The Fedorov-Matsuura talks are likely to have taken up the subject of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's invitation to attend a special session with the G-7 leaders at the time of the next summit, now scheduled to be held in Tokyo on July 7 to 9.

Trade Insurance 'Stimulus' to Deals With Russia

OW1204043693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 12 Apr 93

["News Focus" feature by Keiko Tatsuta]

[Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO—Increased insurance to cover Japan's trade with Russia is expected to be announced by the government this week, but its effects in encouraging deals may be limited by concerns over contradictory policies in Moscow, Japanese experts on the former communist nation say.

"Expanding trade insurance can be a camphor drug (a stimulus) to expedite business with Russia," said Masami Naruse of leading trading house Mitsui and Co.

Naruse, assistant manager of the corporate communications division, said that trade insurance is a prerequisite to any new business, which should follow automatically since Japanese trading houses are locked in specific behind-the-scenes negotiations with Russia.

As far as petroleum and gas are concerned, Japanese trading houses are scrambling for far-short quotas in trade insurance, said another official of a major trading house. He asked not to be named.

Last August, Mitsui struck two bargains with state-run Russian oil production enterprises Noyabrskneftegas and Kogalim, Naruse said. Two conditions were set to make the contracts effective—a pledge for an additional oil export quota from Russian authorities and establishment of an escrow account in a third country, he said.

For the 200 million dollar deal with Kogalim, the first condition was already met. The second condition is under negotiation but almost certainly will go ahead because the world bank has dropped its objection to Russia opening an escrow account, Naruse said.

The deal is then subject only to approval of the Japanese Government, or, for trade insurance, he said.

In the case of the 800 million dollar deal with Noyabrskneftegas, neither of the two conditions have been met. But, Naruse said, it may move forward once the government expands the limit of trade insurance to cover the deal.

Japan in October 1991 pledged 1.8 billion dollars in trade insurance for deals with Russia and is to announce an additional 1 billion dollars at the Tokyo G-7 ministerial meeting being held in Tokyo this Wednesday [14 April] and Thursday, according to Japanese Government sources.

Expanded trade insurance is the centerpiece of Japan's bilateral aid package to Russia, which is estimated at 1.1 billion dollars, the sources said. But some doubt the effectiveness of such aid because about two-thirds of the promised 1.8 billion dollars in insurance has not yet taken effect.

Last month, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) provided 300 million dollars worth of trade insurance for Japanese exports of steel pipes and digging machinery to Russia for construction of natural gas pipelines.

That is part of 600 million dollars already provided and the first installment of a 700 million dollar deal with the Russian gas enterprise Gasprom agreed on last September. But credit for another 700 million dollar petroleum deal with Rosnefte reorganized from the former corporation Rosneftegas, has not yet come into effect.

Iwao Okamoto, MITI's trade insurance division director, attributed the delay mainly to Rosnefte's inability to coordinate requests of 33 affiliated oil companies, and work out details of repayment conditions. "But you will see changes from now on," said Okamoto. He noted that the World Bank agreed to waiver a negative pledge clause, which prohibited Russia and other former communist nations from opening escrow accounts.

"A problem is assurance of payment because Russia has little hard currency," said a senior MITI official on condition of anonymity. The official said Russia must take steps to improve the business environment, complaining about an insufficient foreign exchange law and hefty taxes on exports.

Another specialist in Russian affairs noted that authorities there slap companies with excessive taxation—such as levies on exports, imports and the environment—to collect money to repay official external debts.

The contradictory exchange policy could cause a vicious spiral, dash the hopes of Russian exporters, which in turn would bring in less foreign currency, more taxes and reduced exports, the specialist said.

Stressing the need to help activate and develop Russia's economy, he said it is important to assist industries in Russia that can earn hard currency by constantly exporting. Specific sectors include petroleum and gas, forestry, nonferrous metal, and coal.

Mitsui's Naruse, who spent five years working in Russia when it was one of the Soviet Union republics, said there was no snag except time to deals related to petroleum and gas that are counted in units of 100 million dollars.

Naruse said Russian bureaucracy hasn't changed. He said things take time but they do creep forward. "It is natural for people doing business with Russians to wait and wait. Russia runs on Russian time," Naruse said.

Tokyo To Send Diesel Fuel to Disputed Islands

OW1304130793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan will provide 1,500 tons of diesel fuel to the disputed Russian-occupied islands of Kunashiri, Etorofu and Shikotan to help alleviate severe shortages there, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Officials said the development was completely unrelated to talks scheduled to be held Thursday in Tokyo on the islands' future status between Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev.

Russia's ITAR-TASS NEWS AGENCY had reported earlier this month that local authorities on Kunashiri, one of four disputed islands off Hokkaido, declared a state of emergency due to "an almost total lack of diesel fuel" for electricity generation.

The report said if appeals for fuel from regional administrative authorities went unheeded, local authorities would "take an extreme measure" and appeal directly to the governor of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, "to send a tanker with diesel fuel as humanitarian aid."

Officials said the Foreign Ministry received a telex request directly from Kunashiri, which also made an appeal for fuel on behalf of Etorofu and Shikotan. The fourth disputed territory is the uninhabited Habomai group of islets.

Officials said Japan was also preparing to send the islanders food, medicine and other humanitarian relief goods in the near future.

The islands were formerly inhabited by Japanese nationals, who were expelled after the Soviet Union took possession at the end of World War II.

Earlier Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry issued a document outlining Japan's efforts to improve ties with Russia and touched on the promotion of exchanges with the Russian inhabitants of what Japan calls its northern territories. "As a result of mistaken statements made during the time of the former Soviet Union and a lack of information stemming from their geographic isolation, the Russian inhabitants...have had a distorted understanding of the northern territorial issue," it said.

It said exchanges between Japanese visitors to the islands and their Russian inhabitants "are expected to contribute to alleviating the concerns and correcting the misperceptions."

On Monday, ITAR-TASS quoted the new regional Russian governor, Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov, as ruling out any settlement of the territorial dispute with Japan for the next 50 to 100 years. Krasnoyarov reportedly told a regional council session which endorsed him as head of the regional administration that until we reach the level of Japanese living standards, any transfer of the islands is out of the question.

"In some 50 to 100 years, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will sit down at the negotiating table and undoubtedly reach some agreement," he was quoted as saying.

The 53-year-old former director of a Russo-Japanese salmon breeding joint venture was appointed by a Russian presidential decree last Thursday to succeed Valentin Fyodorov, who also strenuously opposed the return of the islands to Japan.

Muto Avoids Making 'Clear Judgment' on Cambodia

OW1204134093 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] At a session of the Audit Committee of the House of Representatives today, Toshihisa Matsuura from the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan said the Paris Peace Accord stipulates neutrality in Cambodia's elections, and then questioned if the current situation in Cambodia is not breaking the neutrality of both the elections and the UN peacekeeping operations which is one of the government's five principles for overseas dispatch of Self Defense Force [SDF] personnel. Answering the question, Foreign Minister Muto said he does not think the neutrality of elections has been broken in Cambodia. As for the government's five principles for overseas dispatch of SDF personnel, Mr. Muto said: The present situation in Cambodia is not breaking the government's five principles, and I hope the situation there will not develop to a point where the government's five principles are broken. In this way, Foreign Minister Muto avoided making a clear judgment and indicated his intention to watch the situation in that country.

Hiyoshi Hints at Arming SDF Troops in Cambodia

OW1204125693 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] Speaking at a news conference today, Administrative Vice Minister Hiyoshi of the Defense Agency said that the engineering unit of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] now participating in UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia could be equipped with rifles and pistols in response to any future situation in Cambodia.

At the news conference, Administrative Vice Minister Hiyoshi said: Presently there is no change in the government's policy of not equipping members of the engineering unit with rifles and handguns. However, I believe the government needs to deal flexibly and realistically with the policy. It would be good if the commander of the engineering unit deals with the question of equipping his members with rifles and pistols while watching the moves of other nations' troops who are also participating in UN peacekeeping operations in that country.

All rifles and pistols for members of the engineering unit, with the exception of guards, are stored in one location. The administrative vice minister's remarks are regarded as an indication that members of the engineering unit could be equipped with rifles and pistols in response to the future situation in Cambodia, which is expected to hold general elections soon.

MITI To Tighten Weapons-Related Exports

OW1204091593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] In response to the tightening worldwide control on products and materials which may be used to develop or manufacture missiles and chemical weapons, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] has decided to ask Japanese corporations to make a sweeping review of their current export systems.

With the cold war over, the worldwide control on the export of products and materials which may be used to develop or manufacture weapons of mass destruction is tightening in order to keep nuclear and chemical weapons from being used in a regional conflict like the Gulf war. Some products and materials which are exported for civilian consumption may be diverted to weapons manufacturing. For this reason, MITI has decided to ask Japanese corporations to make a sweeping review of their export systems.

MITI intends to ask Japanese corporations to task their presidents with taking charge of export controls, to make a clear division of responsibility in exporting products and material, and to establish independent offices in charge of overseeing how their exports are actually used by foreign importers. As for foreign companies that import Japanese-made products and material which may be used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction, MITI plans to ask Japanese corporations to organize special teams assigned to check their management and past business records. [passage omitted on discussion between announcer and military expert at NHK studio on weapons of mass destruction].

Political Reform Bills Debate Begins in Diet

OW1304141393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Deliberations on competing political reform bills, a major focus of the later half of the current ordinary Diet session, began Tuesday at a plenary session of the House of Representatives.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the house he expects the Diet to enact the bills during the current session which ends on June 20. "All parties share a common recognition that it is necessary to carry out sweeping political reform," Miyazawa said, adding, "I hope (the bills) can be enacted through deliberations among the parties."

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has tabled its own reform plan which aims at replacing the current 511-seat lower house multiple-seat constituencies with 500 single-seat constituencies.

The two main opposition parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Komeito, have jointly submitted an alternative package featuring a combination of 200 single-seat constituencies and a 300- seat proportional representation system.

In the day's deliberations, former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi said proportional representation would produce many small parties and this would inevitably result in the emergence of coalition governments.

Kanju Sato from the SDP rebutted Obuchi's view, saying that even under a proportional representation system, a change of government is possible. Sato argued that an electoral system with only single-seat constituencies harbors the "idea of dictatorship and would be an act of parliamentary suicide" as the overall number of votes gathered by parties is not directly reflected in the acquisition of seats.

Speaking of political donations from business firms, Yuji Tsushima, a member of the LDP, said that businesses should be able to contribute to political parties as a way of playing their role in society. The LDP bill would ban firms from giving political donations to individual politicians, but allow them to make donations of up to 200 million yen a year to political parties in accordance with the scales of the firms.

The co-sponsored opposition bill would impose a ban on companies extending political donations to both individual politicians and political parties.

LDP Submits 13.2-Trillion-Yen Economic Package

OW1304010893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0058 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) announced Tuesday a 13.2 trillion yen package of economic stimulus measures—the largest ever—to rev up the sluggish economy.

The centerpiece of the new proposal is "new social infrastructure" projects in addition to traditional road and bridge works. Many public works orders under the previous 10.7 trillion yen package adopted by the government last August have not yet been contracted.

The LDP plan also features expanded loan lending and tax incentives to bolster consumption and corporate activities, mainly smaller businesses.

The ruling party submitted the plan to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday morning for his government to review before endorsing its own package, which is usually similar to the LDP's plan, at a cabinet meeting in the evening. The new pump-priming package is the third of its kind following the April and August packages of 1992, since the economy started decelerating in early 1991.

With the new social infrastructure projects, the LDP proposes to improve information systems, public research institutions, hospitals, and welfare and educational facilities by spending on advanced fiber-optic networks, equipment, and computers.

As for tax incentives, the LDP calls for tax breaks for housing loans and investment by smaller businesses and raising the tax exemption amount for households' education expenses from 450,000 to 500,000 yen. The LDP excluded income tax cuts as agreed in last-ditch negotiations last Thursday with the opposition parties.

In addition to tax incentives, the package calls for an increase of 1.8 trillion yen in government-backed housing loans, and of 1.9 trillion yen in such loans to smaller businesses.

The LDP plan also proposes front-loading more than 77.4 percent of fiscal 1993 public works spending in the year's first six months. The figure is the amount the government front-loaded fiscal 1992 public works in the first six months.

As for greater public works spending, the LDP plan calls for boosting general-account public works spending, and 2.3 trillion yen for projects by local governments. Both are focused on improving social infrastructure such as sewage systems, parks, and waste-treatment facilities.

It also proposes 1.2 trillion yen for government purchases of land sites for future public works projects.

Other main pillars of the plan include measures to boost imports, such as purchases of foreign products by the national and local governments.

Bearing in mind persistent foreign pressure, the LDP plan calls for large projects, including airports, highways, and shinkansen bullet train lines, to steadily implement a 10-year, 430 trillion yen public works package started in fiscal 1991 in line with a pledge made in the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative talks.

LDP Announces Gist of Package

OW1304011393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0100 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The following is the gist of the economic stimulus package of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) released Tuesday. —National land development projects with an eye toward the 21st century
—Improvement of new social infrastructure
—Front-loading of fiscal 1993 public works spending
—Greater public investment in projects related to improving living standards
—Expanded lending by Housing Loan Corp.
—Greater government-backed lending to smaller businesses
—Promotion of private capital investment
—Employment adjustment subsidies
—Promotion of imports
—Revitalization of stock market
—Stabilization of financial system

Cabinet Meeting Endorses Package

OW1304095893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—The Japanese Government announced Tuesday a package of measures valued at 13.2 trillion yen, a sum equal to 2.8 percent of the nation's fiscal 1992 gross national product (GNP), to bolster the sagging economy.

The largest-ever stimulus program, endorsed at a cabinet meeting, earmarks 10.62 trillion yen for improvement of the nation's infrastructures, including 8.82 billion yen for promotion of public works projects and 1.8 trillion yen in government-backed housing loans to boost housing construction.

"The package, excluding operating costs and other spending, will boost Japan's GNP by roughly 2.6 percent in the next 12 months," said a senior Economic Planning Agency official.

"A further watch is necessary on unexpectedly weak private-sector demand...but the package should be enough to help the economy grow about 3.3 percent as targeted by the government for the fiscal year which ends next March," the official said.

This is the third package to be enforced by the government since the Japanese economy started slowing in early 1991. The government adopted such programs in March and August last year.

As the centerpiece of the outlays, the plan emphasizes "a new development in social infrastructure improvement," apparently referring to projects proposed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party other than such traditional projects as road and bridge building.

In this connection, the package sets aside 1.15 trillion yen for projects to improve educational, medical, research, welfare and other public facilities, more than twice that in the August package, while limiting public works financed by the general-account budget to 3.19 trillion yen, down from the previous 3.4 trillion yen.

"Figures and specifics for such new projects cannot be detailed before a supplementary budget is worked out," said the EPA official, adding "...but quite a lot will be allocated."

Many private economists expect major effects from new infrastructure projects such as fiber-optic telecommunications systems, advanced equipment and computers. "They will give a big boost to production in the concerned industries," said Nobuyuki Saji, senior economist at Nikko Research Center.

The pump-priming plan also features rescue measures for smaller companies, including a 1.91 trillion yen increase in government- backed loans.

As for tax incentives, the plan calls for some 150 billion yen in tax breaks, covering housing loans, household educational expenses, and investment by small firms, among other things.

Included in the public spending scheme are 2.3 trillion yen for projects sponsored by local governments, and 1.2 trillion yen for the advance purchase of land for the purpose of undertaking public works projects.

More than 75 percent, or about 12.2 trillion yen, of public works spending in the fiscal 1993 budget will be front-loaded to the first six months. The government aims to push spending particularly in the first quarter to boost the nation's sagging economy.

The plan also calls for measures to boost imports, in an apparent move to show Japan's commitment to reducing the ballooning trade surplus ahead of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Washington for his first summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday.

Specific targets will not be set, but the plan calls for more government purchases of foreign products and an increase in government-financed loans to boost imports mainly by smaller businesses.

"The U.S. Treasury Department is closely evaluating the package and should be happy with a big figure," said Robert Feldman, economist at Salomon Brothers Asia Ltd. He expects the package will push up the GNP by 1.7-1.9 percentage points and economic growth for fiscal 1993 will be above 3.0 percent.

Other economists say the package will give a sizable lift to the economy, but will not be strong enough to realize the government's targeted growth of 3.3 percent.

Saji said, "Real GNP will be lifted by 1.3 percentage points, but the 3.3 percent growth is impossible." Even when including effects from possible income tax cuts, the growth rate will only reach 2.6 percent, he said.

The package excludes income tax breaks, but the government has hinted at possible tax reforms for fiscal 1994.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry said the plan includes additional funding of 4.9 trillion yen from the government's fiscal investment and loan programs.

Briefing reporters, a ministry official said a supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 will be prepared as soon as possible and be submitted to the Diet in the current session that ends June 20. He said "specific figures are still unclear at the moment," but hinted at an amount around 2.5 trillion yen indicated earlier by the ruling party.

Package Shows 'Shift in Emphasis'

OW1304133193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By Kohei Murayama]

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Although many economists believe that Japan's biggest-ever stimulus package, unveiled Tuesday, is unlikely to jump-start the economy, they consider this less important than the shift in emphasis signaled by its composition.

In fact, the focus of the new package appears to have shifted to underpinning—rather than boosting—the economy until the currently weak spending by consumers and companies picks up to bring on the "sustainable growth without inflation" in the long term as targetted by the government.

"Public demand is already strong ... The key now is private-sector demand," said Jesper Koll, chief economist at S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc.

Many economists agree, citing the ample 10.6 trillion yen earmarked for infrastructural spending in the third set of measures totaling 13.2 trillion yen, which comes on top of two previous packages implemented since the economy started decelerating in early 1991—one in March 1992 and the other in August.

A Finance Ministry official even said that no matter what figure were earmarked the effects would be limited, apparently thinking of the still uncontracted orders which economists estimate at about 1.5 trillion yen out of some 5 trillion yen added onto the August 10.7 trillion yen package.

But for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa the difficult and complicated task of explaining the expected effects on trade remains when he arrives with this "gift" for his first-ever talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Friday.

"Unlike the previous packages, the new plan is timely, formed soon after the fiscal 1993 budget, and with a supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 expected to be passed quickly in the current Diet session that ends in late June," said Atsushi Miyawaki, senior economist at Japan Research Institute.

Also highly credited by many economists is the government's plan to focus spending on such nontraditional projects as laying underground power distribution lines and improving information networks. "These projects are much easier to contract out, and will show quicker effects," said Miyawaki.

Given the plan's huge total value and these new projects, the U.S. Government should be happy, many economists say. "But one problem," Miyawaki said, "is that the package fails to present a clear picture of individual projects, and the total amount for those new works seems to be limited, compared with the overall figure."

A senior official of the Economic Planning Agency told reporters that the amounts and other details will be decided in the process of forming a supplementary budget.

Another arguing point is the amount of so-called "mamizu" (pure water)—truly fresh spending to jack up the real economy. Miyawaki estimated the "mamizu" at around 5 trillion yen, compared with some 4 trillion yen in the August package.

The rest of the plan's outlays are items such as housing and investment loans and advance land acquisition.

The 13-point package specified out measures to boost imports, but again figures are not mentioned.

Some economists say President Clinton should understand that just as there is "no quick fix" for the U.S. economy, none is available in Japan either. "Miyazawa and Clinton should agree on the point that medium- and long-term measures, including structural reforms, are necessary to put their economies in place," said Warburg's Koll.

In fact, the prolonged economic slump has brought a big benefit to Japan—the restructuring of industries and distribution systems. Amid the prolonged economic slump, "companies have slimmed their operations successfully to bring down their break-even points," Koll said.

The complicated distribution system hindering foreign entry into the Japanese markets has changed, with consumers opting for discount store purchases and cheaper direct and mail-order sales. These aspects of long-term improvement, however, are based on the premise that the economy continues showing signs of recovery.

Miyawaki said, "economic indicators will probably show bright signs until about June, primarily from the delayed effects of previous packages." But uncertainty remains thereafter, he said, noting that Japan has no financial resources left for another package because of lowered tax revenues stemming from the economic slump.

That seems to be why the Finance Ministry accepted an unexpectedly huge package this time, Miyawaki said. But ahead of the summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations in July in Tokyo and an expected general election in Japan sometime later, Miyazawa and the ruling party are apparently hanging onto one last card for the time being—income tax cuts.

Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute, said, "I fear it could be too late for the economy."

Package To Benefit 'Livelihood'

OW1304141993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Discussion between NHK Economic News Department reporter Iwama and NHK announcer Kawabata at the NHK studios in Tokyo; From "NHK News" program—live]

[Text] [Kawabata] Income tax cuts are not included in the additional pump-priming package, are they?

[Iwama] Yes, they are.

[Kawabata] How will this additional pump-priming package benefit our livelihood?

[Iwama] The so-called policy tax cuts are incorporated in the additional pump-priming package and the tax cuts will benefit our livelihood. Out of consideration for households which are saddled with the financial burden of educating their children, the tax exemption for dependents is raised by 50,000 yen from 450,000 yen to 500,000 yen.

[Kawabata] The tax exemption for dependents is raised by 50,000 yen. What benefit will this additional 50,000 yen tax exemption bring to our households?

[Iwama] According to an estimate, a household with an annual income of 7 million yen will benefit by 5,000 yen per child every year, and first-home buyers will get a 100,000 yen tax refund for two years.

(Kawabata) Ordinary citizens will benefit like this?

[Iwama] Yes.

[Kawabata] This 13.2 trillion yen is a huge amount of money. Will this huge amount not start another bubble economy?

[Iwama] The government decided on a stimulus package of 6 trillion yen in May 1987 when the economy began recovering after hitting bottom, and this eventually led to the bubble economy. The government has this bitter experience. This time, however, the Economic Planning Agency is insisting that the economy still remains stagnant. Analysis by private research institutes indicates that the Japanese economy is now moving toward recovery after hitting the bottom. It is a matter of course for some people to fear that, coupled with the 1933 budget, the additional pump-priming package could overheat the economy. This time, it is important for the government to cautiously implement the additional pump-priming package, while watching how the economy moves.

[Kawabata] This was a discussion with Economic News Department reporter Iwama.

Business Leaders 'Pleased'

OW1304120093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Japan's business leaders said Tuesday they are pleased with the 13.2 trillion yen package of economic stimulus measures announced by the government.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said, "Japan's economy has begun to show a sign of recovery. The economic pump-priming package will ensure the recovery."

Tadashi Okita, vice president of Hitachi Ltd., said he highly evaluates the package's scale, saying the measures would stimulate domestic demand.

Many business leaders particularly welcomed the timing. Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), said, "It is significant that the package was announced shortly after the passage of the fiscal 1993 national budget in the diet."

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the package will be helpful to the Friday meeting of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The business world especially holds strong interest in the "new social infrastructure" projects, including improvement of information systems, public research institutions, hospitals, and welfare and educational facilities.

Yoichi Morishita, president of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., said the projects should create fresh demand. However, officials in consumer-oriented industries complained the measures were focused too much on public investment to the detriment of consumer spending.

Kan Yamanaka, vice president of the Japan Department Stores Association, said, "The new package seems to forget consumers." Yutaka Kume, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, said the government should stimulate consumer spending by reducing income tax.

Hayashi Calls Plan 'Powerhouse'

OW1304115293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Tuesday the government's just announced economic stimulus package should place Japan's economic recovery on the path toward its officially targeted 3.3 percent growth for the current fiscal year. Hayashi, speaking at a news conference after the government announced a 13.2 trillion yen pump-priming package, said the enhanced public works investment will be the powerhouse needed for business conditions to recuperate as expected later this year.

"We must now begin working on compiling a supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 (to fund the program) as well as scrutinizing reforms of the tax system so that the ministry can submit a draft to the Diet" before its current session ends in late June, he said.

The new plan is the largest ever, surpassing the previous 10.7 trillion yen package unveiled last August.

According to a ministry estimate, the new program is expected to help boost the gross national product (GNP) by an annual rate of 2.6 percent.

"Chances are quite high that the government's (3.3 percent) growth target will be achieved," the finance minister said. But for fiscal 1992, which ended March 31, Hayashi has said it would be almost impossible for the economy to achieve even a 1.6 percent growth target, a figure that was revised downward from 3.5 percent in December.

Hayashi said he is not worried about the possibility of causing another speculative "bubble" period of skyrocketing stock and asset prices. If such activity occurs, authorities will act flexibly based on what the country has learned from its past experiences, he added.

The finance minister was skeptical that land prices would begin to rebound because of the plan, predicting property values will continue to decline.

To Make Growth Target 'Certain'

OW1304054193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 13 KYODO—A 13.2 trillion yen package of economic stimulus measures adopted Tuesday by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) earmarks 10.6 trillion yen in public works-related spending, party officials said.

The outlays to jack up the economy includes about 2 trillion yen in "new social infrastructure" projects. They were proposed as the centerpiece of the package to complement traditional road and bridge works.

Many public works orders under the previous 10.7 trillion yen program adopted by the government last August have not yet been contracted.

The 14-point package is the largest ever. It also features tax incentives worth 170 billion yen, including tax breaks for housing loans, household educational expenses and investment by smaller businesses.

The ruling party submitted the plan to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday morning for review before the government endorses its own package, which is usually similar to the LDP's plan, at a cabinet meeting in the evening.

The government will then submit a supplementary budget proposal worth 2.47 trillion yen to the Diet after the Golden Week holidays in the first week of May. It aims to implement its program as soon as possible, said Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council.

Briefing reporters at the Diet, he said the package will expand domestic demand and "make certain" that the domestic economy achieves the government-set growth target of 3.3 percent in real terms in fiscal 1993.

The pump-priming package is the third to be introduced in 12 months since ones in April and August last year. The economy started slowing down in early 1991.

New social infrastructure projects are intended to improve information systems, public research institutions, hospitals, and welfare and educational facilities by committing large amounts of money for advanced fiber-optic networks, equipment, and computers. "With this as a base," Mitsuzuka said he wants to establish such new projects as the "pillar of fiscal 1994 budget formation."

In addition to tax incentives, the package calls for an increase of 1.8 trillion yen in government-backed housing loans, and 1.9 trillion yen in loans to smaller businesses.

The LDP excluded income tax cuts after getting agreement on this from the opposition parties in 11th-hour negotiations last Thursday.

The LDP plan also proposes front-loading more than 77.4 percent of fiscal 1993 public works spending in the year's first six months, the same figure for the equivalent period in fiscal 1992.

As for greater traditional public works, the LDP plan calls for an increase of 3.1 trillion yen in general account public works spending, and 2.3 trillion yen for projects by local governments. Both are focused on improving social infrastructure such as sewage systems, parks, and waste-treatment facilities.

It also proposes 1.2 trillion yen for local government purchases of land sites for future public works projects.

Other pillars of the plan include measures to boost imports, apparently to show Japan's commitment to reducing the ballooning trade surplus ahead of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Washington on Friday for his first summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The measures include purchases of foreign products by the national and local governments, and increased lending by the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

With persistent foreign pressure in mind, the LDP plan calls for large projects, including airports, highways, and Shinkansen bullet train lines, to steadily implement the 10-year, 430 trillion yen investment in public works started in fiscal 1991. That was in line with a pledge made in the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative talks designed to remove structural barriers to trade and investment.

Mitsuzuka said the measures "open doors equally at home and from abroad" to purchases by national and local governments. "The trade surplus will shrink," he said.

Auto Firms Study Tokyo Employment Subsidies

OW1004063093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0408 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—In the face of a prolonged business slump, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association is considering filing applications to the Labor Ministry to receive employment adjustment subsidies, association officials said Saturday. The subsidies are designed to cover the cost of salaries which implement employment adjustment measures, like employee leaves with pay. The formal decision is scheduled for late this month, the officials said.

Among automakers, Nissan Motor Co. announced plans to cut its work force by 5,000 of their 53,000 workers by the end of fiscal 1995 and Mazda Motor Corp. plans to reduce 1,000 jobs by cutting back on hiring recruits over the next four years.

Japan's new auto sales picked up in March for the first time in nine months, but an official at the association said the best-selling cars are mainly the low-priced models. He said because of this, one cannot say car demand has begun an upward trend.

North Korea

Reaction to Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal Continues

Radio Denounces IAEA Resolution

SK1004030693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1149 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "An Act of Hostility Based on a U.S. Scenario"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the United States and its followers forces adopted by force an unjustifiable resolution on referring our so-called nuclear issue to the United Nations at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] held on 1 April. Thus, they are attempting to openly meddle in our domestic affairs and to take so-called sanctions against us with the help of the Untied Nations.

This is a calculated hostile act based on a U.S. scenario, which is an intolerable encroachment upon our country's sovereignty and our nation's dignity.

There is no ground whatsoever for the IAEA to bring our nuclear issue to the United Nations. As everyone knows, we has sincerely implemented the duties pursuant to the safeguards agreement. And through this course, the fact that we do not develop nuclear weapons has been clearly proved.

Speaking of the two sites which have become a controversial issue, they are out-and-out ordinary military sites [sunsuhan ilban kunsa taesang] which have nothing to do with nuclear activities and which cannot become objects for inspection.

The IAEA is also well aware of this fact. However, joining the U.S. maneuvers to open up our military sites [kunsa taesang] and to disarm us, some officials of the IAEA Secretariat and some of its member states coercively demanded an inspection of the military sites on the basis of the faked-up intelligence data provided by the United States. Following our declaration to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a self-defense measure they adopted an unjustifiable resolution on referring our nuclear issue to the United Nations, charging us with so-called noncompliance with the safeguards agreement.

This clearly shows that the IAEA Secretariat is acting according to the scenario prearranged by the United States and under its manipulation while disregarding international justice, impartiality, and objectivity.

What we cannot overlook in particular is that the United States and the IAEA apply two-pronged and double standards. They went so far as to adopt the resolution to transfer our nuclear issue to the United Nations under the pretext of the suspicions of nonexistent nuclear weapons and inconsistency. Nevertheless, they have never taken issue with South Africa which has developed and manufactured nuclear weapons and Israel which is said to possess nuclear weapons, nor have they brought the nuclear weapon development of these country to the United Nations.

In addition to that, Japan is now accelerating to become a nuclear big power by stockpiling more plutonium than necessary and South Korea is actively pushing ahead with the development of nuclear weapons under the U.S. nuclear umbrella. However not a single word has been uttered over those facts by the United States and the IAEA.

Judging from this, those who have failed to comply with the safeguards agreement are not us but the United States and some officials of the IAEA Secretariat who have created artificial obstacles to our implementation of the safeguards agreement by applying double standards.

Nevertheless, like a thief turning on its master, they adopted the unjustifiable resolution on referring our nuclear issue to the United Nations by charging us with noncompliance. Such an adoption is a byproduct of the plot by the U.S. imperialists and its followers forces to isolate our republic and to obliterate our socialism. This is a vicious challenge to the just demands of the world's broad peace-loving people who aspire for a peaceful solution of our nuclear problem through negotiations.

Such attempt to take our nuclear issue to the UN arena is an out-and-out illegal act without any validity and legal ground.

The United States is the ringleader who has been increasing nuclear threats against us by deploying more than 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and by constantly staging a nuclear war exercise. It is also the ringleader who has led our nuclear issue to the present situation.

Therefore, it is none other than the United States that must be brought to the United Nations for the sanctions from the international community, because it has not only intentionally violated the duties stipulated in the treaty, but has also increased nuclear threats against nonnuclear states. The United Nations should turn due attention to this and should not follow in its disgraceful past footsteps.

If the United States and its followers forces attempt to put collective sanctions of any kind on strength of the United Nations, we will not be able to avoid taking a self-defense measures against them. The United States and its followers forces should look straight at the unshakable will and staunch fighting spirit of our people and should act with discretion.

Paper Denounces UN Nuclear Discussion

SK1304055093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0531 GMT 13 Apr 93

["Not a Topic for Discussion at U.N."—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Taking the "nuclear problem" of the DPRK to the United Nations to put "collective pressure" on it is an unjust act which is contrary to the goal of the U.N. and its mission and Charter as well, says NODONG SINMUN today.

In an article entitled "Not a Topic for Discussion at the U.N." the daily says:

The DPRK's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a self-defensive measure to safeguard the national sovereignty and supreme interests of the country, not to wreck world peace or threaten the security of other countries.

If the U.N. intend to solve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula in keeping with its goal and mission, it must pay attention not to the DPRK but to the U.S. nuclear threat to it and take measures. A situation in which a nuclear war may break out any moment has been created on the Korean peninsula by the U.S. policy hostile to the DPRK and nuclear blackmail against it.

The DPRK is the victim to a nuclear threat, while the United States is the assailant that presents nuclear threat to it. In order for the United Nations to defend world peace and security in compliance with the requirements of its charter, it should call in question the criminal acts of the United States, the very one resorting to nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula, and take practical measures to remove its nuclear threat. If it, on the contrary, connive at the undisguised nuclear threat of the United States, the assailant, while unilaterally charging and trying to put pressure on the DPRK, the victim, the U.N. would mar its charter, with a stain on its name as a disturber of world peace, not a defender of universal peace and security.

The "nuclear problem" of the DPRK is a matter that must be solved between it and the United States, not to be dealt with at the United Nations, the paper says, and goes on:

It is the United States which [words indistinct] problem on the Korean peninsula. It is also the United States that prevented the DPRK from smoothly implementing the NPT and caused it to withdraw from the treaty.

The United States has turned South Korea into the biggest nuclear arsenal in the Far East, packed with more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons.

The real criminal who should be brought to justice at the United Nations and face sanctions by the international community with regard to the DPRK's "nuclear problem" is the United States. Whether to maintain a principled stand of taking sanctions against the United States, or not, is a touchstone showing whether the U.N. adheres to the principle of international justice and impartiality, or not.

Paper Denounces Japan Position on Issue

SK1104103193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 11 Apr 93

["Japan Must Not Behave Recklessly"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON in a commentary Saturday [10 April] pointed out that the Japanese authorities were pursuing sinister purposes in ridiculously taking the lead in the moves for putting pressure on the DPRK, persistently raising outcries over the fictitious "nuclear threat".

The analyst says the Japanese authorities are never weary of spreading rumours about the "nuclear threat" of the DPRK in an effort to justify their scheme to convert the country into a military power, a nuclear power. But they are mistaken.

Some official figures and media of Japan are now recklessly clamouring for a pressure upon the DPRK while making much ado about "nuclear threat". This is a gross distortion of fact that does not deserve even a passing note. It is an insult to us.

The Japanese authorities should not run about like a headless chicken to internationalize the "nuclear problem" of the DPRK but see the worldwide guard against their scheme for a military power, a nuclear power.

The unreasonable pressure on us and the moves for a military power, a nuclear power, will only land Japan in a tighter fix.

The Japanese authorities should not act rashly, clearly seeing that nothing can frighten the Korean people or stifle our-style socialism centred on the popular masses.

Vice-Premier Meets Visiting Cuban Delegation

SK1204053493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Chang Chol, vice-premier and minister of Culture and Art, on April 11 met and had a friendly conversation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall with the delegation of the Ministry of Culture of Cuba headed by Minister Armando Enrique Hart Davalos.

Present there were Kwon Hyok-pong, vice-minister of Culture and Art, and Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to Korea.

The head of the delegation said it is their invariable strategy to defend socialism more firmly.

He declared that Cuba would continue to develop the historical tradition of friendly relations with Korea based on the intimacy between Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro.

He extended congratulations to Comrade Kim Il-song on his birthday.

Cuban Envoy Hosts Reception

SK1304110393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega hosted a reception at the embassy Monday evening on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Present on invitation were O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces; Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-president; Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of foreign affairs; Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; and others.

The delegation of the Ministry on Culture of Cuba headed by Minister Armando Hart Davalos visiting Korea was also present.

Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega in his speech said that the life of Comrade Kim Il-song has been devoted to accomplishing the cause of his people and the most advanced idea of mankind.

"Comrade Kim Il-song who has been devoting his all to the people from his early years not only organized and led to victory the struggle of the people against the Japanese and U.S. imperialists but also has made a proud progress in all political, economic, social and cultural fields by wisely leading the socialist construction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," the ambassador stressed, and went on:

"The august name of Comrade Kim Il-song is widely known to the world beyond the boundary of Korea, evoking admiration, for his exploits in leading the heroic Korean people in the van in defence of the revolutionary idea.

"Cuba and Korea will certainly win victory as they have great peoples and parties and are guided by great leaders."

Declaring that it is a matter of principle for Cuba to express unconditional support to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, he said: "The Cuban people sternly denounce the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercises and demand the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea."

The ambassador fully supported the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country".

He condemned the enemies who transferred the "nuclear problem" to the United Nations, making much ado about it.

Vice-president Yi Chong-ok in his speech said that the greatest of the feats performed by respected Comrade Kim Il-song up to now is the successful solution of the problem of succession of leadership over the revolutionary cause of chuche. "The Korean revolution is vigorously advancing along the road of victory, guided by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il," he declared.

"Bright is the future of our party and people who hold dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who was born as the lodestar of Paektu, has literary and military accomplishments, loyalty and filial piety and is possessed of extraordinary intelligence, outstanding leadership ability and noble virtues, in high esteem as the sagacious leader, supreme commander and chairman of the National Defence Commission, he said, and stressed:

Although Korea and Cuba are geographically far away from each other, their peoples are class brothers and comrades-in-arms who are closely linked together by the bonds of friendship through the struggle to attain the common object and ideal. The friendship between the two countries based on the deep intimacy between the great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il-song and the supreme leader of the Cuban revolution Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, will grow stronger day by day.

"No force can block the road ahead of our two peoples who are advancing under the banner of socialism in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres and the struggle of our people to defend socialism against imperialism is sure to win," he stated.

DPRK To Send Relief Supplies to Cuba

SK1304010993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2253 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The DPRK Gvernment decided to send buiding materials to Cuba which suffered losses in human lives and big economic damages from a recent strong hurricane.

Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea Arrives

SK1104104893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—A government delegation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea led by Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Vileka arrived here Saturday for an official goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to congratulate the great leader President Kim Il-song on his birthday.

A large crowd warmly welcomed the goodwill envoy of the Equatorial Guinean people.

The guests were met at the airport by Premier Kang Song-san and officials concerned.

A function welcoming the delegation took place at the airport.

A Children's Union member presented a bouquet of flowers to the prime minister.

Delegation Feted

SK1204054693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The DPRK Government arranged a banquet at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 11 for the government delegation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea headed by Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Bileka on an official goodwill visit to Korea to congratulate the great leader President Kim Il-song on his birthday.

In his speech at the banquet, Premier Kang Song-san said the dispatch of a high-level congratulatory mission by Equatorial Guinea to celebrations of the birthday of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is an expression of the Equatorial Guinean Government and people's deep respect and trust in him.

Noting that the Equatorial Guinean people are now making strenuous efforts to build a "better Equatorial Guinea" and develop the national economy under the leadership of esteemed his excellency President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, upholding the slogan of "unity, peace and justice", he said:

"We highly estimate your anti-imperialist independent stand and extend support and solidarity to your people's cause of justice.

"Our people will as ever make every possible effort to steadily develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the equatorial guinean people in accordance with the idea of the foreign policy—independence, peace and friendship." In his speech, Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Bileka said he extends warmest congratulations to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on his 81st birthday in the name of the government delegation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and wishes him good health and long life for the prosperity of the Korean people.

"The government and people of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea are regarding with deep respect the tireless efforts exerted by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for the political, economic and cultural development of the Korean people, particularly, for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country", he said.

"I think that during our stay in beautiful Korea issues of economic, technical and cultural cooperation awaiting a solution will be discussed according to the friendly relations existing between the governments of our two countries," he added.

Meets Premier Kang Song-san

SK1204053893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—Talks between the government delegations of the DPRK and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 11.

Present on the Korean side were Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council, Choe Ki-yong, chairman of the State Education Commission, Chang Song-kil, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, lieutenant general of the Korean People's Army An Pi-tok and other officials concerned.

Present on the opposite side were the members of the delegation led by Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Bileka.

The talks took place in a friendly atmosphere.

On the same day, Premier Kang Song-san met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation which paid a courtesy call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Meets Kim Il-song

SK1204112393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the Equatorial Guinean Government delegation led by Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Vileka on an official goodwill visit to Korea to congratulate him upon his birthday.

Present on the occasion were Premier Kang Song-san, Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Yi Song-tae.

Prime Minister Silvestre Siale Vileka conveyed a personal letter of Equatorial Guinean President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo to President Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Choe Tae-pok Meets CIS Trade Union Confederation Group

SK1304092893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea met and had a friendly talk with the visiting delegation of the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Commonwealth of Independent States led by Vice-chairman S.I. Kramarenko on April 12.

MINJU CHOSON Denounces Japan for 'Bribing' Press

SK1304093193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0534 GMT 13 Apr 93

["Money-backed False Report"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today condemns the Japanese authorities' schemings to subsidize the press.

The Japanese Government hatched a plot to induce newspapers to carry "news" supporting the use of plutonium and squandered 480,000 dollars in making SANKEI SHIMBUN and several other newspapers to publish it.

This is a base act to openly reduce the press to a tool of the government. This reveals the reality of the quite reactionary society of Japan, the news analyst says, and goes on:

That the Japanese authorities are building up opinion "supporting" nuclear armament, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribing papers to carry false "news" shows that their reactionary and foul nature has gone to extremes.

Progressive public figures of Japan sharply denounced the government's act to subsidize the press, saying that the fabrication of news with the backing of money shows the danger into which not only democracy but also the freedom of information in Japan have been plunged.

The extremely reactionary reality of Japan is causing deep apprehensions among people.

Group Discusses 'Comfort Women' With Japanese Premier

SK1304011093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2221 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—Representatives of the Japanese side's National Liaison Council of the fact-finding group on the truth of the focible draft of Koreans on March 30 called on the Japanese prime minister's office and staged a request action for the solution of the problem of forcible draft and "comfort women for the army."

They put forward a 10-point demand including points demanding that government officials directly meet the victims of forcible draft and former "comfort women for the army" and hear their statements and survey the sites of focible labor, a special office be set up under the prime minister and an apology be made at the Diet.

They raised the same demand to both houses next day.

Kim Il-song Receives LPRP Delegation 8 Apr

SK0904141793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] headed by Thongsing Thammavong, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the LPRP and chairman of the party's Organisational Committee.

Present on the occasion were Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Chi Chae-yong, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Delegation Returns Home 10 Apr

SK1204145193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The Lao People's Revolutionary Party delegation led by Thongsing Thammavong, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee delegation and chairman of the party organizing committee, flew home on 10 April. Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, and Chi Chae-yong, deputy director of a department of the party Central Committee, bade farewell to the delegation at the airport.

Kim Il-song Invites Cambodia's Sihanouk for Visit

SK1204051493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, will shortly visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on the invitation of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Vice President Meets Bangladesh House Speaker

SK1004051493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Comrade Yi Chong-ok, DPRK vice president and special envoy of great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, paid a courtesy call on Bangladesh House Speaker Sheikh Razzaq Ali on 1 April.

During the meeting the house speaker said that the friendly relations between Bangladesh and the DPRK has a long history and hopes that this relation will be further expanded and developed. He emphasized that the DPRK achieved marvelous achievements in various fields including the economic field.

On the same day the Bangladesh Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz arranged a banquet for the great leader's special envoy. The foreign minister, energy and mineral minister, minister of state for justice, director in charge of the Far East region of the Foreign Ministry, and other functionaries concerned participated in the banquet. The special envoy and his entourage and our country's ambassador to Bangladesh were also invited to the banquet.

Speeches were made at the banquet by Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz and Vice President Yi Chong-ok. In his speech the Law and Justice Minister said that the visit to Bangladesh by His Excellency President Kim Il-song's special envoy clearly shows the special interest to promote friendly relations between the two countries. He said that the friendly relations between Bangladesh and the DPRK is being strengthened and deepened with increasing speed. He emphasized that the two countries have common points of view in almost all international and regional problems.

He insisted that the Korean issue should be resolved by the Koreans themselves, and said that he supports all peaceful efforts for the country's reunification by the Korean people.

Participants of the banquet toasted for the long life and health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, for the long life and health of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and for the long life and health of the Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

During his stay the special envoy visited this country's National Museum. The great leader's special envoy left Dhaka on 3 April after winding up his Bangladesh visit. The Bangladesh law and justice minister, director in charge of the Far East region of the Foreign Ministry, other functionaries concerned, and our country's ambassador to Bangladesh bid farewell to the special envoy.

SPA Receives Pakistani Parliamentary Group

SK1304092393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] gave a reception for the visiting parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan led by Chairman of the Senate Waseem Sajad at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday evening.

Speaking at the reception, Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the SPA, said the Pakistani Government and people under the correct leadership of respected His Excellency President Ghulam Ishaq Khan are now registering big successes in their endeavours to develop ohe national economy, improve the people's living and build a new Pakistan, stabilized, developing and prospering and Islamized, upholding the slogan of self-reliance. "We warmly congratulate them in this regard," he said, and stressed:

"We note with high estimation that the Pakistani Government has striven to overcome pressure from outside forces, pursue its foreign policy independently and promote relations with developing countries.

"We will make every possible effort in the future, too, to consolidate and develop further the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, two parliaments and peoples."

Chairman Waseem Sajad in his speech said "We sincerely wish President Kim Il-song good health and long life," noting that his delegation's visit concurred with the period in which the 81st birthday of the president, an auspicious holiday of the Korean people, is being celebrated significantly.

He said the ties between the two countries have been made closer through the exchange of high-level delegations in recent years and the desire of the sides to explore new fields of cooperation manifested in this course.

He voiced full support to the efforts of the DPRK to reunify the country without outside interference and expressed his earnest hope that the tireless passion of the great leader devoted to the cause of national reunification would surely shine with glory.

"Korea must be reunified into one without fail," he stressed, adding: "I believe the friendly and cooperative relations existing between our two countries will come into fuller bloom by our joint efforts."

Yang Hyong-sop met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation which paid a courtesy call on him that day.

Envoy Presents Credentials to Cape Verde President

SK1104062693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] (Yi Song-nin), our country's new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cape Verde, presented his credentials to this country's President Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro on 31 March.

In the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro. The president expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the ambassador to convey his greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il wishing them long life and good health.

The president expressed satisfaction over the good development of friendly and cooperative relations between Cape Verde and the DPRK. He stressed that he is convinced that the Korean people will achieve greater success in the struggle for socialist construction and the peaceful reunification of the country under the wise leadership of His Excellency respected President Kim Il-song and His Excellency dear Kim Chong-il.

Support for Kim Il-song's 10-Point Program Continues

Kye Ung-tae Supports Program

SK1304052193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, issued a statement Monday in support of the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" worked out by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

He praised the programme as a torchlight of reunification and patriotism which indicates a way to the fellow countrymen in North and South for achieving national unity, shaping their destiny with the efforts of the nation itself and achieving peace and independent reunification of the country, not falling a victim to the imperialist reactionary forces.

He said:

"To implement the 10-pmint programme of great unity of the whole nation and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is the most important task facing all the Koreans in North, South and overseas.

"If this programme is to be carried into practice, the singlehearted unity of our people in the northern half of the country must be further strengthened.

"Our party and people will decisively smash the aggressive moves on the imperialists, firmly defend the Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses, and vigorously promote the cause of national reunification under the banner of singlehearted unity, closely rallied behind the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

"In order to promote great unity of the whole nation, all political parties, organizations and people of various strata in North, South and overseas must solidarize and unite with one another in the [words indistinct] national reunification.

"Our party and people will actively support the patriotic struggle of political parties, groupings and people in South Korea and overseas, actively solidarize and unite with them and further strengthen the joint action for national reunification."

Kye Ung-tae expressed the hope that the political parties, groupings and people of various strata in South Korea and overseas would support the 10-point programme, a common landmark of the nation for national reunification, and turn out as one in the efforts to implement it.

Pak Song-chol Supports Program

SK1204142793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Press statement by Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, and vice president of the DPRK, released on 11 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Receiving with great joy and excitement the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for national reunification that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song personally prepared, all of the Korean people extend utmost honor and infinite gratitude to the respected and beloved leader, the sun of the nation and the legendary hero. He has victoriously pioneered the destiny of the fatherland and the nation for almost 70 years since he embarked on the road of the revolution, holding aloft the banner of great national unity.

I fully support the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for national reunification announced by the respected and beloved leader. I firmly believe that the program becomes not only the torch of national salvation which elucidates the only way out of the nation at the present, but also the banner of unity which vigorously inspires all of the nation into national reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Those who are concerned about the nation's destiny should unite as one nation to open the road of national reunification, whether they are in the North, the South, or overseas and whether they are communists, nationalists, proletarians, bourgeoisie, atheists, or theists.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for national reunification elucidated by the great leader most correctly elucidates the goal of the great unity and its ideological foundation, and the principles and detailed methods of the great unity in conformity with the interests and demands of the whole nation. The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is a great chapter for national unity which makes it possible for all people and organigazations living and working with different ideologies and ideals and under different systems to firmly unite as one. The program is also a great patriotic banner which makes it possible not only for those who want national reunification, but also those who are indifferent to or afraid of reunification to join the honorable road for national reunification.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation elucidated by the great leader is a measure for national salvation which is of epochal significance in actively solving the grave, difficult situation on the Korean peninsula today and in opening the way out for the nation.

In our country today, the danger of thermonuclear war is constantly increasing because of the maneuvers for aggression and interference by imperialist reactionaries, including the U.S. imperialists. Since the Cold War system was destroyed internationally, the U.S. imperialists' brigandish tyranny and their aggression maneuvers have become more vicious on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists resumed the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a large-scale test nuclear war, to obliterate [apsal] our republic, the fortress of socialism. They also manipulated some officials at the International Atomic Energy Agency to adopt an unjustiable resolution on referring our nuclear issue to the United Nations. Thus, they have clearly revealed their attempt to perpetrate an extremely dangerous military adventure on the Korean peninsula. Following this attempt, the antinational forces in South Korea are clinging to the maneuvers for national confrontation. As a result, our nation is in the grave situation of becoming a victim of big countries.

Today our nation is standing at the serious crossroads: whether it will be forced to suffer the disaster of thermonuclear war in addition to suffering the tragedy of division by continuing national division, antagonism, and confrontation, or whether it will defend national dignity and open the road of reunification through national unity. Our nation should choose the road of unity. Division and confrontation lead to self-ruin, and reconciliation and unity are the only road of reunification and prosperity. The only way our nation can survive is for all of the 70 million fellow countrymen to pool their strength and sternly smash the aggression and interference by foreign forces.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is not only a banner of reconciliation and unity which elucidates the future road of the nation, but is also a torch of national salvation which makes it possible to pioneer the nation's destiny.

The great leader's announcement of the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation at the Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] is a great political event which has resulted in an epochal turning point in pioneering the nation's destiny. By holding aloft the banner of great unity of the whole nation, our fellow countrymen have been able to eliminate all kinds of barriers on the road of reunification and to accelerate reunification in the 1990's more vigorously with new faith and optimism.

The great leader's announcement of the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is another immortal achievement that he has registered in the history of his glorious struggle for pioneering the destiny of the fatherland and the nation through the great unity of the nation.

The respected and beloved leader—who announced the 10-point program for national liberation during his anti-Japanese armed struggle and thus started the brilliant tradition of great national unity—held aloft a banner of great national unity in his struggle to build a new society and also achieve national reunification after national liberation, and achieved great victory and advance in the struggle.

Indeed, the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is a lofty, patriotic, and nation-loving program which can be elucidated only by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great father of the nation, who has led the whole nation to the single road of patriotism and nation-loving with boundless warm love for the country and the nation.

I have mastered the correctness and invincible vitality of the respected and beloved leader's ideology of great unity of the nation throughout the entire course—ranging from the period of the sacred war for national liberation against the Japanese imperialists, the period of the construction of a new fatherland, the period of socialist construction, and the period of modeling the whole society after the chuche idea, up to today. I firmly believe that when our fellow countrymen advance, holding aloft the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation they can achieve not only national reunification, but also the prosperity of a reunified fatherland.

Our nation is faced with the honorable task of expediting the country's reunification with the united strength of the 70 million nation by being outstanding in implementing the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation.

For the North and the South to achieve unity based on a nation-loving spirit and a spirit of national independence, it is imperative that South Korea adhere to the principle of national independence also.

If the present South Korean authorities want to become a civilian regime which moves toward national unity of independence, unlike the previous servile military fascist regimes, they should renounce their policy of relying on foreign forces, express their will to withdraw U.S. forces, suspend joint military exercises with foreign military forces for good, and get out from under the U.S. nuclear umbrella, as we said at the SPA.

Upholding the 10-point program of greaty unity of the whole nation elucidated by the great leader our party and the government of the republic will unite political parties, groups, and all walks of compatriots in the North, the Soyth, and overseas, who will more vigorously struggle to achieve reunification in the 1990's.

I express the expectation that the political parties, groups, and compatriots in South Korea and overseas will actively support and consent to the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation elucidated by the great leader and unanimously launch into the struggle for its realization.

Daily Stresses Unity in Program

SK1204023893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0046 GMT 9 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 9 April editorial: "Let Us Hasten the Fatherland's Reunification by Implementing the 10-Point Program of Great Unity of the Whole Nation"]

[Text] The fifth session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK adopted the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for the fatherland's reunification that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song personally drafted.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is an overall integration of the ideology of great national unity, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song early presented and has embodied. It is a great charter of national unity, which formulates the way to realize peace and reunification of the country and to achieve national growth and prosperity by overcoming all severe difficulties facing the nation with chuche-oriented national strength.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song teaches in the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for the fatherland's reunification: All of the people demand and desire reunification of the fatherland by putting an end to the history of division and confrontation which has lasted for almost half a century. The whole nation should be unanimous in wanting to achieve independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

In the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song considers establishing an independent, peaceful, and neutral reunified state to be a general objective of great unity of the whole nation; love of the nation and the nation's independent spirit to be an ideological basis of great national unity; and yielding everything to the cause of the fatherland's reunification while promoting coexistence, mutual prosperity, and common interests to be a principle of great national unity. And he has elucidated methods in detail to realize great national unity.

Our people are filled with new joy and excitement at receiving the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. They are hardening their firm resolution to hasten the fatherland's reunification, the nation's long-cherished desire, in cooperation with fellow countrymen in the South and overseas compatriots under the banner of great national unity.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a programmatic guideline as well as a banner of love for the country and for the people, which makes it possible to get through prevailing difficulties by using united national strength and to open a way out for the nation under this severe situation, in which danger of nuclear war hovers over the fatherland and the cause of national reunification faces a new challenge.

Taking advantage of an opportunity at a time when the balance of power on the international stage has been lost, imperialist reactionaries, including the United States, are indiscreetly trying to establish a new world order under their control. They are putting political pressure, economic sanctions, and military threats on other countries, which are going their own ways independently. In particular, the point of their aggression targets the divided Korean peninsula where socialism and capitalism keenly confront each other.

The United States has resumed the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a test nuclear war exercise, against us and forced the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to adopt the unjust decision to bring our nuclear issue to the United Nations by manipulating some quarters of the IAEA. This shows that it has stepped upon a new military and adventurous road.

This maneuver by the imperialist reactionaries are spurred by South Korean antinational, traitorous forces' maneuvers to gain something by betraying the follow countrymen through forming an illicit connection with foreign forces.

Any forcible measures the imperialist reactionaries, including the United States, may take against our republic by abusing international agencies would become a fuse that could cause a thermonuclear war on the Korean peninsula and would lead our people into the calamity of nuclear disaster, thus adding to the tragedy of the national division that has lasted for almost half a century.

If our people fail to achieve reunification and fight fellow countrymen and are hostile to each other in this severe situation, we can expect no other result than providing the imperialist reactionaries with the third party's profit and sacrificing the whole nation to big countries.

To realize national sovereignty and the fatherland's reunification by putting an end to foreign forces' aggression and interference with great unity of the whole nation upholding the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation declared by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the only way for saving ourselves and our nation, for protecting our Korean people's perpetual dignity, and for achieving constant growth and prosperity of the nation.

In the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation, the objective and ideology of great national unity and the principles and methods of great unity have been defined and declared justly in conformity with the nation's aspiration and demand. The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is the banner of national unity as well as the banner of patriotic and nation loving, which can be accepted by all members of the nation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song declared that the reunified state to be built with great unity of the whole nation must be, above all, independent, peaceful, and neutral.

At present, different ideologies and systems exist in the North and South of our country, and either side would never concede its own ideology and system. The only way for achieving national unity and reunification under this condition is to establish a reunified pan-national state, which represents all parties, all factions, and all members of the nation in various classes and strata, while leaving the existing two systems and two governments as they are.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song also elucidated that great unity of the whole nation should be achieved on the ideological basis of nation loving and the spirit of national independence and based on the principle of yielding everything to the cause of the fatherland's reunification while promoting coexistence, mutual prosperity, and common interests.

Our people, as a unitary nation of the same blood, have lived together on one land for a long time. Their patriotism and spirit of independence is stronger than any other nation. With our nation's dignity and pride, the compatriots in various classes and strata in the North, South, and overseas should link their own destinies with the nation's destiny, firmly unite themselves based on their nation loving and the spirit of national independence, and oppose flunkeyism and national nihilism that spoil the nation's chuche-oriented spirit.

Because each class or stratum is a part of the nation, no single class or stratum can realize its own interests without the nation's common interests.

If our people underscore differences among themselves without being united based on the principle of giving priority to the nation's common interests, they will never achieve reunification. Therefore, the North and South should recognize and respect each other's thoughts, ideology, and system, and they should make every effort to achieve the cause of the fatherland's reunification based on the principle of giving priority to promoting the whole nation's interests over regional and class interests.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation drafted by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the most practical and just banner of great unity of the whole nation, which generally manifests fundamental problems in achieving the cause of reunification with the strength of national unity by overcoming obstacles in the course of the fatherland's reunification.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is a brilliant summation of wise leadership, immortal achievements, and valuable historic lessons of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has victoriously led the national cause on the basis of the strength of the people's unity while giving priority to national interests.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song started revolutionary activities in an early stage and established the Fatherland Restoration Society, a unique anti-Japanese, national reunification front organization. Then he announced the 10-point program of the Fatherland Restoration Society and has victoriously led the anti-Japanese struggle for national liberalization.

Thus, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has prepared the brilliant tradition of great national unity and has achieved valuable results in brilliantly embodying the chuche-oriented line for great national unity during the struggle to build a new society after the liberalization and to reunify the fatherland. He is a peerless patriot and the sun of the nation.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is truly a patriotic and nation loving program which can only be presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who endlessly loves the country and the nation, embraces all the countrymen in his broad bosom, and lets them love the country and the nation. It is also a brilliant crystal of the Workers Party of Korea politics based on patriotism and humanity.

The 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a torch of national unity, a radiant beacon brightening the way to reunification in the 1990's firmly uniting all the countrymen in the North, South, and overseas and helping them develop their destinies on their own.

Furthermore, it has dealt a hard blow to imperialist reactionary forces that are trying to gain the third party's profit by making the North and South of Korea fight with each other.

The Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly adopted the 10-point program on great unity of the whole nation for fatherland reunification prepared by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. In a letter of appeal to the 70 million countrymen, it also strongly called on all people to participate in the struggle to hasten national reunification by implementing the 10-point program on great unity of the whole nation.

Realizing the country's independent and peaceful reunification by implementing the 10-point program presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is an important work related to the nation's existence and destiny.

Upholding the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation to hasten the national reunification in the 1990s with the great unity of the [illegible]0 million fellow countrymen is the duty of all members of our nation. Herein lies true patriotism. All people must support the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation, and all fellow countrymen must jointly carry it out.

Whether they live in the North or South or abroad, and regardless of whether they are communists or nationalists, all Korean compatriots should firmly unite as one under the banner of the 10-point program on the great unity of the whole nation. Those with strength should devote energy, those with knowledge should give knowledge, and those with money donate money—all should make tangible contributions to the reunification of the country and the development and prosperity of a reunified fatherland.

We should adhere to the principle of national independence to hasten the country's reunification with the congregated might of all the people. The fatherland's reunification, in its essence, is to establish the nation's sovereignty and to achieve national cooperation on a nationwide scale.

We can neither refute [paekyok] outside forces' invasion and intervention, realize a great unity of the nation, nor achieve national reunification, apart from the principle of national independence.

The Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly emphasized that the principle of national independence should be observed by the South as well as by the North and demanded that, if they really aspire national independence and want national unity, the new South Korean ruling authorities must clearly express its attitude to abandon its policy of relying on outside forces, to withdraw U.S. troops from South Korea, to suspend forever joint military exercises with foreign troops, and to free itself from the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

If the South Korean authorities meet these demands, the North and South can resume dialogue standing on the position of independence without outside forces' intervention, and they will go forward to realize the country's reunification together.

The relevant countries, including the United States, which are responsible for the division of Korea, should not block our people's way to country's reunification cause by achieving great unity, but help them.

The United States and its followers have threatened and blackmailed [wihyop konggal] us, while talking about sanctions against us under the pretext of our nuclear issue. However, they cannot block the aspiration of our people and our nation that want to realize the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification with the nation's congregated might.

All Korean fellow countrymen in the North, South, and overseas will smash [chitpushigo] intervening maneuvers of the imperialist reactionaries, including the U.S. imperialists, and will surely realize the historic cause of the fatherland's reunification, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's 10-point program on great unity of the whole nation for the fatherland's reunification.

Kim Tal-hyon Comments on Kim Chong-il Election

SK1204072093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1315 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] News that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was elected as chairman of the DPRK Defense Commission at the Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] has had great effect [panhyang] upon all people throughout the country.

Comrade Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier of State Administration and chairman of the State Planning Committee, commented on the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's election.

[Begin Kim Tal-hyon recording] As reported, the Fifth Session of the Ninth DPRK SPA elected the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the DPRK Defense Commission, reflecting the unanimous intent of our party, people, and officers and men of the army.

Having elected the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and as marshal of the DPRK, we elected him as chairman of the supreme military leading organ [choeko kunsa chido kikwan] of our national sovereignty. This is very politically and militarily significant in maintaining the sovereignty of our country and nation and the security of our people. This is also another epoch-making event.

In particular, we have upheld the dear Comrade leader as supreme head of the supreme military leading organ of our national sovereignty and our revolutionary armed forces at a time when the U.S. imperialists and reactionaries direct the spearhead of anti-socialist plot against our republic. This greatly demonstrates the indomitable might of our people who are firmly united as one around the great Comrade leader and the dear Comrade leader. This also vigorously shows the firm faith and will of our party, people, and People's Army soldiers to resolutely and endlessly safeguard, adhere to, and consummate the chuche-oriented socialist cause—which has been pioneered and victoriously led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song—generation after generation under the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership.

Therefore, all people throughout the country, who have received this exciting news, are now filled with boundless emotion and jubilation. They have also clearly expressed their lofty dignity and pride.

Our party and people have upheld the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme head of all revolutionary armed forces. This is based on their absolute trust in his greatness as a military talent [kunsa yongchae]. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is not only a great thinker, theorist, and prominent politician, but also a great military strategist and ever-victorious and iron-willed brilliant commander who is [word indistinct] and who has perfectly carried out military strategy.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has presented strategic tasks of making the entire army into chuche-idea [chuche sasanghwa] by developing and enriching the chuche military [word indistinct] and by applying it to revolutionary army building. By wisely leading struggles to realize tasks, he has strengthened and developed our revolutionary armed forces into an indomitable strong army that is perfectly and fully equipped with military attributes of the leader, party, and people.

The political and ideological superiority of our revolutionary armed forces—centering on the People's Army—has been displayed at the highest level by the dear Comrade leader's tested leadership. Officers and men of the People's Army and People's Security Forces and commanders and men of Worker-Peasant Red Guards and Red Youth Guards have been strengthened and developed into the indomitable strong army that gives endless loyalty to the party and the leader, and that resolutely safeguards and defends the socialist cause.

Thanks to the dear Comrade leader' tested leadership, our revolutionary armed forces are possessed with a one-being-a-match-for-100 military capabilities that can cope with any modern war. A strong military defense structure—which cannot be destroyed by any might—is firmly established in our country.

Upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme head of our party and revolutionary armed forces is truly the most lofty honor of our party, people, and revolutionary armed forces.

In the completion of [word indistinct], firmly carrying out the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of our republic Defense Commission and supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces, is a decisive guarantee for the completion of chuche-based army building and the final victory of the chuche revolutionary cause.

As we did in the past, we will uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership with loyalty in carrying out the State Administration's works in the future, too. [end recording]

Foreign Delegations Arrive for Kim Il-song's Birthday

SK1104105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Ministry of Culture of Cuba led by Minister Armando Hart Davalos to participate in the 11th April spring friendship art festival, a delegation of the SBB Stock Company of Japan for celebrating April 15 led by Director Oe Yoshiyuki, a delegation of the Japan society for the study of Kimilsongism, a delegation of the Japan committee for supporting Korea's reunification and a delegation of the General Confederation of Trade Unions of the Commonwealth of Independent States led by Vice-chairman S.I. Kramarenko arrived here Saturday.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Korean traders and industrialists in Japan for celebrating April 15 led by Choe Kyong-sik, vice-chairman of the federation of Korean traders and industrialists in Japan, and other delegations and visiting groups of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan arrived in the socialist homeland.

Tourist Season Begins in Pyongyang

SK0904133493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 9 (KCNA)—Many tourists are coming to Korea, the land of morning calm, with the advent of a tourist season.

In the latter half of March many foreigners toured the capital city of Pyongyang and Mt. Myohyang, a scenic spot.

Some 4,000 tourists are to visit Korea this month, a beautiful flower season when the April spring friendship art festival, a great international art festivity, is open.

Pyongyang-Bangkok air services opened on April 5, which offer conveniences to the tourists to Korea from Thailand and Southeast Asia. Thai tourists led by the director of the Merryland Travel Service Co. Ltd. and Singapore tourists were the passengers in the first flight to Pyongyang on April 6.

Also arriving on the same day were Japanese tourists collected by the Kinki Travel Agency.

This month the tourists from China, Japan, Thailand and other countries of Southeast Asia and Europe will spend pleasant days at scenic spots including Mt. Kumgang and Mt. Myohyang.

PYONGYANG NEWS Begins Publication in Japan

SK0904135893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 8 (KCNA)—"PYONGYANG NEWS" was founded in Japan on April 5.

The Japanese paper NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said that the world's attention is now being drawn to Korea and interest in the DPRK is daily growing in Japan, too.

"PYONGYANG NEWS" is published with the help of organs concerned of the DPRK to introduce the present siuation of the DPRK in Japan more widely and deeply and promote political, economic and cultural exchange between Korea and Japan, the paper said, and stated:

"PYONGYANG NEWS" will introduce the present situation and prospect of different fields of the DPRK and quickly send plenty of helpful news to the readers three times a week by fax and mail.

KCNA Reviews 12 April NODONG SINMUN

SK1204083393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with an editorial entitled "token of our people's unquestioned trust in the illustrious leader" in connection with the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK at the fifth session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly.

It is reported in the daily that foreign media gave publicity to news of the election of Comrade Kim

Chong-il as chairman of the national defence commission and that meetings were held in succession in different places of the country to warmly congratulate him upon his election as such.

Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the director and employees of the Chonchon County commercial management office in Jagang Province and a trader and industrialist under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) who set a good example in bringing the beautiful tradition of unity between the Army and the people into full play, according to the paper.

His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, will shortly pay a visit to Korea, reports the daily.

"Unshakable faith of our people in holding respected Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem as hanbyol [lodestar] for ever" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

Seen in the paper is a press statement issued by Pak Song-chol, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the DPRK, supporting the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" published by President Kim Il-song.

Under the blockletter title "highest glory and congratulations to the great leader President Kim Il-song" the paper gives accounts of colorful activities conducted and articles carried by media in various countries to celebrate the holiday of April.

The daily informs the readers of the sojourn of the Equatorial Guinean Government delegation, the delegation of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan, the delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil, the delegation of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador, now on a visit to Korea to congratulate President Kim Il-song on his birthday.

The third-day performance of the 11th April spring friendship art festival was given successfully at theatres in Pyongyang and local areas, says the daily.

An article of the daily stresses the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation advanced by President Kim Il-song is a patriotic programme run through with love of the nation and the spirit of national independence.

It rounds up voices of the broad world public opposing the U.S. imperialists' pressure on Korea and supporting the Korean people's cause of justice.

It reports answers of a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman to a question raised by KCNA in connection with the disclosure of the fact that the former Soviet Union and Russia dumped radioactive waste into the Korean East Sea and other waters in secrecy.

Printed in the daily are a commentary hitting out at the U.S. imperialists' invariable ambition for Asian domination and an article exposing the deceptive nature of the U.S. "arms reduction".

Japanese Social-Democratic dietmen referred to the "treaties" imposed by Japan on old Korea in the past as a breach of the international law, reports the daily.

Correction to Finance Minister on State Budget

SK1004012093

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "5th Session of 9th SPA Continues in Pyongyang: Finance Minister Details Budget," published in the 8 April East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 19:

Column one, last paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...envisages disbursement of 11.6 percent of the total... (correcting figure).

South Korea

PRC, USSR Said To Turn Down DPRK Nuclear Request in 1960's

SK1304100993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, April 12 (YONHAP)—North Korea decided to launch a nuclear weapons program in the 1960s and asked the Soviet Union and China for help, but was turned down by both, THE GOLOS weekly newspaper reports. In its latest edition, published Monday, GOLOS says North Korea made the request when the Soviet Union and China helped it build two small nuclear reactors for research. Moscow and Beijing were uneasy about North Korea's unpredictable behavior at the time, the weekly says in the first report that North Korea had a nuclear intention in the 1960s.

North Korea currently produces 15 to 18 kilograms of plutonium a year at its Yongbyon nuclear complex, with which it could build several nuclear bombs. And at the same time, North Korean nuclear facilities are in full operation to enrich uranium and produce nuclear fuel, the article says. The nuclear facilities were built with the help of China and private companies from France, Australia, Switzerland and others in the 1980s, it says.

Pyongyang faces the worst possible international developments, including the suspension of arms shipments from former East-bloc countries, fear of German-style unification of Korea, China's establishment of diplomatic relations with South Korea, and Russia's tilt toward Seoul, the article says. Because of these developments, North Korea's hardline communist leaders are launching all possible threats to Japan and the United States through a declaration of its intention to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

North Korea, in short, is making a last desperate move, it says. North Korea is also violating its agreements with the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency by providing nuclear and missile technology to Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria, the paper adds.

FKI Drops Plan To Invite DPRK Premier to Meeting

SK1004032493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) has abandoned a plan to invite North Korea's premier to a regional economic meeting in Seoul next month. The federation had completely given up on the plan because inter-Korean relations have been strained since Pyongyang's declaration it will withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), an fki official said Saturday. FKI had intended to invite Premier Kang song-san to a meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) slated for May 22-26 in Seoul.

Barbed-Wire To Be Removed From Coastlines

SK1204021393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0133 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Ninety kilometers of the more than 1,000 km of barbed wire entanglements along the Korean coastline will be removed by early July, Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae said on Sunday.

"The wire entanglements were set up to prevent penetration by North Korean agents, but we admit that they are oppressive and inconvenient," Kwon told the KBS television show "Our Problem."

"We are considering to remove them as far as military operations are not hampered." The wire extends for 1,037 km, sealing off some of the country's nicest beaches. Kwon said the ministry was considering the gradual removal of another 500 km of wire.

"With Kim Chong-il's appointment as chairman of the National Defense Committee, he might make a test provocation toward South Korea as supreme commander of the military. We have reinforced surveillance in the demilitarized zone, inspected our operational preparedness and elevated our vigilance to third class from fourth class," he said.

Seoul Prepares for Possiblity of Los Angeles Riots

Consul-General Returns to L.A.

SK1104050093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0411 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—Kim Hang-kyong, consul-general to Los Angeles, will return to his post on Sunday morning in case rioting breaks out after the Rodney King trial. Kim, in Seoul for the annual envoy conference that began Friday, flies back before the verdict is due on the white Los Angeles policemen who were videotaped beating a black motorist. Riots broke out a year ago after a jury cleared the policemen, and members of the Korean community in Los Angeles were the main victims of the arson and looting.

Ministry Forms Task Force

SK1304053193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0509 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry formed a task force Tuesday in case of riots in Los Angeles after the jury returns a verdict in the Rodney King civil rights trial. Assistant Foreign Minister Son Chon-yong heads the task force, which is on around-the-clock duty. The Korean community was hardest hit in the riots a year ago, when a jury acquitted white policemen of brutally beating black motorist King.

"The South Korean Government's concern with immigrants in Los Angeles is allowed by international law under the Vienna Convention, of which Seoul is a member," Son said. The task force will monitor the situation and maintain contact with the South Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), he said. The LAPD sends three patrols a day into the South Central area in the center of Koreatown, and has arranged for mobilization to emergency spots within 10 to 15 minutes of a report, Son said.

Envoy: U.S. 'Might Not' Name Seoul PFC

SK1304101393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 12 [date as received] (YONHAP)—South Korean Ambassador Hyon Hong-chu said Monday that the U.S. trade representative might not name Korea a priority foreign country [PFC], contrary to concerns in Seoul, in a report on how other countries protect intellectual property rights to be submitted to Congress on April 30. Washington was in a mood to suggest that Korea would unlikely be named a priority foreign country in its bilateral trade talks on intellectual property rights protection, and Korea-U.S. security cooperation and trade relations were on "a relatively smooth path," Hyon told Korean reporters.

U.S. companies have pressed the trade representative to designate Korea a priority foreign country for allegedly infringing on intellectual property rights. Asked about North Korea's nuclear issue, Hyon said: "I personally think it will not be solved in any easy manner in view of the North Korean Government's attributes. I'm quite concerned about this prospect."

He stressed the need to stymie North Korea's nuclear weapons development program, adding that North Korea must be made not only to reverse its decision to leave the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty but also to clear itself of any suspicion surrounding its nuclear development program. Hyon said he expected China to influence North Korea in resolving this problem because North Korea's becoming a nuclear power is not in the interests of China.

Hyon will shortly leave for Seoul, ending his 30 years of service with the South Korean Government. Han Song-su, a former trade and industry minister, will replace Hyon as ambassador to the United States.

Envoy to PRC No Chae-won Returns to Seoul 13 Apr

SK1304021893 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 13 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] No Chae-won, ambassador to China, flew home on the afternoon of 11 April for working consultations.

Relevant Foreign Ministry officials said that with the approach of the ROK-PRC foreign ministers talks slated for 21 April in Bangkok he had flown home to discuss pending issues like ROK-PRC summit talks and North Korea's nuclear issue. His return at a sensitive time when the North Korean nuclear issue is being discussed at the UN Security Council, attracts public interest.

Observers say that his return to Seoul shows that policy coordination has been fully arranged between the ROK, United States, and China to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Exports to PRC Increase 155 Percent Over 1992

SK1304094893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0054 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—Exports to China are up 155.6 percent over a year earlier as of February, and securities industry sources predicted Tuesday that they could rise 69.6 percent for the year. Direct exports to China totaled 2.65 billion U.S. dollars last year, when the two countries established diplomatic ties, up 164.7 percent from 1991.

As of February, exports were up 155.6 percent at 600 million dollars and the source says that he anticipates a rise of 69.6 percent to 4.5 billion dollars for the year. The sources said imports from China were expected to fall 3.3 percent to 3.6 billion dollars, resulting in a trade surplus for the first time.

Sources attributed the export growth to the growth of China's economy and tariff reductions in anticipation of participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Korean investment in China also helped.

Exports of iron and steel products, petrochemicals, textiles and automobiles posted the highest growth. Steel exports rose 467.6 percent last year, making the communist country Korea's second largest market after the United States. Korea is expected to record 1.3 billion dollars of steel exports this year, up 63 percent over 1992, they said.

By February, Korea had exported 1,400 cars to China, over two times the 714 it exported last year. Textile exports will increase to 750 million dollars from 460 million dollars last year, lifting the dependency on China from 2.9 percent to 4.5 percent, according to the source. China will record 9-11 percent economic growth and have a stable currency this year, helping Korean exporters, the sources said.

Kim Rules Out Constitutional Change During Term

SK1004030493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam has ruled out amendment to the constitution while he is in office and ordered that the topic not be discussed, Chongwadae spokesman Yi Kyong-chae said Saturday. "To discuss amending the constitution at this time amounts to splashing cold water on the on-going reforms," Yi quoted him as saying. Kim had instructed Choe Hyong-u, secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, and senior Chongwadae secretaries not to discuss a constitutional amendment, Yi said.

Cautious calls for constitutional change have arisen since Prof. Kim Kwang-ung of Seoul National University proposed reducing the president's term in office from five years to four. In a lecture to a DLP lawmakers' seminar on Friday, he suggested changing the constitution to shorten the president's term and allow him to run for reelection once.

Yi said the president didn't like the idea. "I will dedicate my five years to laying a foundation for the building of a new Korea through the eradication of irregularities and corruption and resuscitation of the economy," Yi quoted him as responding to the suggestion.

Kim said that on serving out his five years, he would leave the presidency, the spokesman said. Yi said that the professor's proposal for constitutional revision was strictly a personal opinion. "At no time did Chongwadae or the ruling party discuss any change in the basic law," he said. Yi apparently took the trouble to deny the possibility of a change to the constitution to prevent a misunderstanding of Kim's position on the issue because the professor is one of his advisers on political reforms.

Presidential Task Force Formed To Push Reform Programs

SK1304103593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—A presidential task force has been formed to work out one- and five-year programs to push President Kim Yong-sam's reforms. The team, headed by Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong and comprising aides from the offices of eight senior presidential secretaries, is working on both reform programs at the same time, Chongwadae sources said Tuesday.

The one-year program will focus on eradicating corruption and other social evils to cure the "Korean disease," and the five-year program will be directed at structural reforms of politics, economics and society so that Korea may appear clearly different at the end of Kim's tenure from what it is now, they said. Under the one-year program, a legal basis will be laid for uprooting corruption and requiring financial disclosure by public officials, in addition to trimming the size of government through administrative reforms and removing things handed down from past governments.

It will bar land speculation, slap a heavy tax on unearned income, broaden financial market opening, require use of real names in all financial transactions, and ease controls on business activities. The sources said it was necessary to present the people with the schedule and objectives of Kim's reform program to achieve a national consensus on continuing it.

NSP To Stop Phone Taps, Mail Opening

SK1004030593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0058 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] has stopped bugging telephones and reading mail for political reasons since President Kim Yong-sam took office in late February, informed sources said Saturday. On limited mail examination for security reasons, however, the NSP is talking with the Communications Ministry and related government agencies about the need to amend the postal law and other regulations. The NSP currently examines North Korean propaganda and North Korea-bound mail mistakenly sent here from communist countries after an initial examination by the post office, the sources said.

Minister Details Philosophy on Financial Reform

SK1004033593 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 6 Apr 93 p 5

[Interview with Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong by correspondent Kim Tae-ho, on 5 April—place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Kim Tae-ho] How will you recover the loans to the communist countries? Do you plan to provide these countries with the additional loans?

[Hong Chae-hyong] Russia poses the most serious headache to us. If Russia does not repay normal interests accrued on the loans according to repayment schedules, we will not make the disbursement of $330 million tied loan for 1991. All efforts to have Russia repay interest in arrears and for the ROK to resume the disbursement of its committed loans will be exerted so that ROK-Russia relations will not be affected adversely by the loan issue.

[Kim] Foreign investments in the ROK are drastically decreasing. Do you have any plan to reinvigorate foreign investments?

[Hong] Our government is restricting foreign investments in some industries. In five years, our government plans to open these industries to foreigners for investment to the level comparable to that of the advanced countries. The government also plans, in principle, to allow foreigners to acquire domestic land for production purposes but not for speculative purposes including rent.

[Kim] What is your philosophy and faith in financial administration?

[Hong] My basic position is that I will faithfully live up to the principles of market economy. Therefore, I will not hesitate to lift restrictions on financial administration. I also plan to introduce a concept of productivity into administration for its efficiency. Another basic principle of mine is to have policies ironed out through public hearings and to maintain their consistency. [passage omitted]

[Kim] The Ministry of Finance is a government agency responsible for the state economy. I think that the ministry needs a strong power to iron out the other ministries' demands. Some people are concerned that Minister Hong is not the right person to handle such a tough job because you are a man of soft character.

[Hong] The current economic team attaches a greater importance to team work than anything else. The time has passed when ministers haggle to maximize their ministries' interests. I know some people are concerned that I will not be able to properly run the state economy because I am soft. However, do not misunderstand that a man of soft character lacks rigor. A soft approach in dealing with business will result in greater success. Therefore, do not miscalculate that I may easily give in to unreasonable demands because I am soft. I think that a soft policy will bring about greater effect. [passage omitted]

[Kim] What made you become a public official in the area of finance?

[Hong] After I graduated from the university, I joined the Navy as an officer and became an admiral's. After the 16 May military coup d'etat, the admiral was appointed vice minister of finance. He made me his secretary. Since then, I have served as a public official in financial-related government agencies.

[Kim] You have never resisted any order by the government, have you?

[Hong] I think any public official should unconditionally obey the government's order. These days, some public officials resist the government's order. This makes me feel sorry because I feel as if the order within the government collapsed. Obedience to the government's order will be eventually beneficial to those concerned.

[Kim] Can you give any advice to those concerned with financial institutions?

[Hong] We are in transition to a new financial environment that we have never experienced. This new environment involves many changes for our financing system to come, such as the opening of the financial market, liberalization of bank interest rates, and the restructuring of the financing industry. We do not have to be afraid of these changes. We should take advantage of them as opportunities for take-off. The government as well will not spare its efforts and assistance in order to boost the productivity of financing institutions. I will actively encourage self-regulation in all financing institutions. In particular, I would like to ask them to concentrate their effort on upgrading their productivity without reading each others' mind. [passage omitted]

[Kim] Can you tell us why you were selected minister of finance?

[Hong] I have never targeted a certain position while serving as a public official up to this date. I think that a public official's duty is to faithfully carry out the job entrusted to him. I have worked hard up to now based on this philosophy. I think this is how I became minister of finance. I am afraid I hardly deserve such an appointment.

[Kim] What do you think is the most rewarding thing while serving as a public official up to now?

[Hong] While working for the Foreign Exchange Bureau, our country faced a crisis because it almost ran out of foreign exchange. I solved this problem. This is one of the most rewarding things I have ever experienced. I also experienced many rewarding things while serving as financial attache at an ROK embassy abroad and as a secretary at the presidential secretariat office. I am really grateful for opportunities for me to head the Korea Export-Import Bank, a state-run bank, and the Korea Exchange Bank, a private bank. I think the on-the-spot experience I acquired at these agencies will contribute to successfully executing financial administration.

Plan To Restructure Financial System Detailed

SK1004032593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Apr 93 p 17

[Text] A debate has begun on ways of trimming the problem loans of banks as the nation prepares for a fundamental restructuring of the domestic financial industry.

Many analysts said Korea should devise a consensus on trimming the huge overhang of uncollectible loans at banks. Unless such nonperforming loan issues are settled, any plan for modernizing the financial industry will doom to be a complete failure or go nowhere.

A few banks have become a "bottomless jars" because they are overburdened with huge amounts of sour loans. Whatever earnings they make, they will be unable to write off the problem loans in the foreseeable future.

It's like throwing water on thirsty soil or adding a drop to a bucket, they said.

The Korea Institute of Finance [KIF] has proposed three options to eliminate the nonperforming loans of banks. First of all, it said each bank should devise its own plan to reduce them. But it said banks alone cannot write them off because they amount to 10 trillion won or 3-10 percent of bank assets, according to an estimate.

As another option, the government or the central bank release state funds or print money. KIF said it is the most feasible solution but it said it asks the people to should the burden and will fan inflation.

The third option is for banks to establish a joint firm, often called the "bad bank" to take over all problem loans to make bank assets clean. The government would give incentives in tax to the joint firm which would be in charge of selling bad assets. KIF said the government can participate in capital increase in the bad bank.

The introduction of the bad bank would restore reliability and soundness of the Korean banking system. Furthermore, banks could reduce their financial burden by getting tax incentives in return for writing off bad assets. But the third option is criticized as a "cosmetic solution" that would eliminate bad assets only from the balance sheets.

Korean commercial banks accumulated huge amounts of nonperforming assets in the mid-1980s as the government initiated its industrial restructuring plan. The government could not let ailing shipping firms, overseas construction companies and heavy industrial companies collapse in view of the wide-ranging repercussions through the financial system and the economy.

Instead, it urged banks to take over debts of these insolvent firms and arranged their take-over by other conglomerates, which in turn received huge amounts of preferential loans.

In the eyes of foreigners, many domestic banks would have gone bankrupt a long long time ago if the government had not stood behind them. But few Koreans believe the collapse of Korean banks is likely whatever the circumstances.

Many analysts warned that at least two major Seoul-based banks may fall prey to mergers in the next five years if they are drawn into competition without shedding their problem loans.

Most bank problem loans were accumulated not because of banks' mismanagement but because of the government's misguided industrial policies.

Master Plan for Restructuring Financial System

Objectives

—To pursue liberalization for promoting competition
—To rationalize management of financial institutions
—To establish institutional devices for promoting a sound and competitive financial environment
—To restructure the financial system in such a way as to harmonize with international practices and standards

Major Reform Agendas

—Strengthening the competitive system in the financial market
—Establishing a fair and sound competitive environment in the financial market
—Setting up a financial system that can harmonize with international financial practices
—Securing soundness in financial institutions and the financial market.
—Harmonizing industrial and financial policies
—Devising an ownership structure that bars industrial firms from taking over financial services companies and financial firms from controlling industrial companies.

Implementation Methods

—Under a four-stage plan in the next five to six years
—The first stage will focus on creating a competitive environment through interest rate decontrols and other price liberalization.
—The second phase will deal with the general restructuring adjustment of the financial industry.
—The third and the fourth stages will initiate liberalization programs to harmonize Korea's financial system with international financial practices and systems.

Interest Rate Deregulation

—To modify or accelerate the pre-announced for-stage decontrol plan.
—The issuing rates of monetary stabilization bonds, public and states bonds will be liberalized in the second-stage program, not in the third-stage as was announced.
—In the second-stage, banks will be permitted to introduce market-based Money Market Certificate, on which returns will be 0.5-1 percentage point below the issuing rate of certificates of deposit (CDs).
—Lending rates of insurance companies to be deregulated in the second-stage in 1993 and deposit rates of insurance houses to be liberalized in the third-stage in the 1994-1996 period. The original plan excluded the deregulation of lending and deposit rates of insurance companies.

Ensuring Soundness of Financial System

—To introduce financial derivatives market, including interest rate options, swaps and futures products.
—To strengthen disciplinary action against weak financial companies.
—To establish a clear-cut guideline on expansion of branch networks and new business licenses as well as strengthen vigilance against managerial risks, off-balance sheet transaction risks and unsound asset operation and formulate a preventive supervisory system.

Reduction of Policy Loans

—A reduction of preferential policy loans under the four-phase plan will be completed by 1998.
—An inter-ministerial committee will review the policy loan system and link the amount of policy loans to the specific portion of outstanding bank loans.
—The government will issue bonds to finance "essential sectors" that need preferential policy loans.
—Specialized banks will deal with most policy loans and commercial banks will move away from handling policy loans.
—Commercial banks will set up a special unit that will be in exclusive charge of handling policy loans.
—The central Bank of Korea [BOK] will scale down its automatic rediscount of policy loans on a gradual basis.
—This year, the government will set the maximum ceiling on policy loans so that such preferential loans are no longer increased.
—Next year, the government will transfer part of policy loans handled by commercial banks to state-run banks. Banks will permitted to lower the mandatory lending ratio for manufacturing firms and banks will be freed from the maximum lending quota for the household sector.
—Under the third-stage in 1995-1996, all policy loan rates will be liberalized and commercial banks will terminate their handling of policy loans.
—Under the fourth-phase in 1997-1998, banks will be freed from meeting the mandatory lending ratio for small and medium-sized firms.

Improvement of Credit Control System

—An abolition or improvement of the credit control system will take place under the four-stage plan by 1998.
—To strengthen the Fair Trade and Anti-Monopoly Law, land laws, inheritance and gift taxes, corporate accounting laws and Industrial Development Laws as a way of eliminating the bank credit control system.
—To eliminate or soften rules that stifle corporate business activities this year.
—Next year, the relationship between banks and corporate borrowers will be changed to partnership, not that of supervisors and customers. Corporate accounting systems will be improved.
—From the 1995 to 1996, credit ceiling on 30 conglomerates will be expanded or will be differently applied. Conglomerates will no longer have to get prior approval from main banks for investments. The core company system, under which each conglomerate is permitted to pick three specialty firms for limited bank loan drawing, will be abolished.
—In the four-phase in 1997-1998, the credit control system will be scaled down or abolished.

Reduction of Problem Loans

—Nonperforming loans of banks will be reduced or eliminated through three options.
—The first option is for each bank to write off nonperforming loans under its own initiative.
—The second option is for the government or the central bank to extend low-interest loans to banks so that they can write off problem loans.
—The third option is for banks to jointly participate in the creation of a unit that will take over all problem loans from banks.

Prevention of Hot Money

—To offset soaring capital inflow, the central bank lends foreign currencies to domestic financial institutions so that they can make offsetting overseas portfolio investments and the government reduces or eliminate the won-dollar swap lines with foreign banks in Korea.
—The government may impose interest rate equalization tax or foreign exchange transaction tax on foreign capital.
—The government will promote to development of financial futures and foreign exchange forward markets.

New Monetary Policy

—A new broad-based monetary indicator, including M2B or monetary base, will replace the current M2.
—The central Bank of Korea will include nonbank financial institutions as partners for its monetary policy. Nonbank financial institutions will be subject to the reserve requirement ratio of the central bank.
—The central bank will narrow the gap of its lending rates to financial institutions and money market rates to help financial institutions reduce their reliance on the central bank for funding.
—The central bank will charge a "penalty rate" (higher than money market rates) on financial institutions that seek to borrow central bank money excessively.
—To reduce monetary stabilization bonds and expand issuance of state bonds as part of steps to implement the monetary policy under the liberalized interest rate age.
—The central bank will resort to open market operations, changes in rediscount rate and reserve requirement ratios for a more market-based monetary policy.

38% of Taejon Expo Village Housing Reserved

SK0904084793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Taejon, South Korea, April 9 (YONHAP)—The Taejon Expo Organizing Committee said Friday that 38 percent of the 430,344 rooms in Expo village apartments were reserved as of the end of March by prospective visitors to the world fair opening in August. Reservations had been made for 57,020 Korean-style rooms, 26.5 percent of the 215,172 of this type, and 17,473 rooms with beds, 30.1 percent of the 48,050 of this type. Unfurnished rooms booked numbered 89,873, 52.7 percent of the 157,122 available, bringing the total reserved rooms to 164,366. The village has 430,344 rooms in 3,958 apartments, of which 3,336 apartments are available for use by visitors to the Expo. Construction is 95 percent complete, with finishing touches under way now.

Kia Motors To Demonstrate Solar Car at Taejon Expo

SK0904024193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 9 (YONHAP)—Kia Motors Co. has built a solar car with a top speed of 120 kilometers an hour and will enter it in the world solar challenge, a race for sun-powered cars in Australia in November, the company announced Thursday. The streamlined single-seater weighs 180 kilograms, and is six meters long, two meters wide and 1.2 meters high.

It has a solar battery with a 17-percent conversion efficiency, a maximum power point tracker that gets maximum electric power from the solar collector when it is not sunny and a telemetry system to monitor cruising and weather conditions. The company will demonstrate the car at the Taejon Expo in August and it will compete in the Australian rally in November. Kia plans to modify the car, which it started to develop in 1991, for use within urban areas and hopes to begin commercial production in 1998.

Daewoo Telecom Develops 'Speediest' Accelerator Chip

SK1204115193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1132 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP)—Daewoo Telecom Co. said on Monday [12 April] it had recently developed the world's speediest 32-bit graphic accelerator chip which, it said, begins to be mass-produced beginning this month. The chip, christened "AGC98023," is so designed to build up the processing speed of applied programs in computer's operating system such as MS-Windows, X-Windows and Presentation Manager, a company official said.

The new chip can also be used in expanding the performance of CAD applied programs and be directly connected to 386DX or 486 processor bus. The chip was the speediest processing speed among the 32-bit graphic processors developed so far, he added.

ROK Develops New Multimedia Personal Computer

SK1004033493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 10 (YONHAP)—A multimedia personal computer, which uses stereo sound and photographic-quality images, has been developed in South

Korea and will go on sale in September, the Communications Ministry said Saturday. The computer, the result of a three-year joint effort by the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute, the Korea Computer Research Association, Goldstar Corp., Daewoo Telecom Co., Samsung Electronics Co., and Hyundai Electronics Co., is to be unveiled on Tuesday in the Federation of Korean Industries Hall.

The multimedia computer, christened COMBI (computer bisoe secretary), has a CD-ROM drive and sound system made in Korea. Goldstar, Samsung, Daewoo, and Hyundai will start manufacturing the Combi next month and put it on shop shelves by September. Prices will vary between 2.5 million won (3,140 U.S. dollars) and 4 million won.

So far Korea has lacked the hardware and software for multimedia and was at the beginning stage of multimedia applications. The research project has been initiated in July 1990 under the support of the Communications, and the Science and Technology Ministries. The joint team will now work toward developing a multimedia workstation by June 1994 at the budget of 11.5 billion won from the government and 7.8 billion won from companies.

Scientists Claim To Develop Nonpolluting Fertilizer

SK1304103793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0845 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 13 (YONHAP)—South Korean scientists claim they have discovered the world's first nonpolluting fertilizer that is effective for a year. Prof. Cho Yong-sang and his chemistry team at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) said Tuesday they have developed an environment-friendly, controlled-release fertilizer after two years of joint research with Namhae Chemicals Co.

Unlike current controlled-release fertilizers with lasting effect, Cho's fertilizer is coated with natural high polymers and so is earth-friendly and costs less. Through a method of uniform coating with a 10 micron layer of polymers, mass production is possible and the price is 30 percent less than current controlled-release fertilizer.

Because chemical fertilizers are soluble in water, 50 percent of them are washed away and farmers have to spread them at least four times a year, Cho said. To overcome this, scientists tried chemical compounding to slow the rate of dissolution and physical means such as coatings. They failed, however, because their complex manufacturing methods cost too much and the insoluble coatings caused pollution. The hundreds patented coated materials in the world are all artificial high polymers, but the KIST team produced a natural high polymer and helped resolve a fundamental enviromental problem, Cho said.

Including labor, Cho said, the cost of using traditional fertilizer is 17,000 won a danbo (216 U.S. dollars a hectare), but his product saves 5,000 won a danbo (63 dollars a hectare). In tests by the rural development administration, the new fertilizer cut dissolving losses 20 to 40 percent and increased yield 2 to 4 percent, Cho said, adding he had applied for a patent on the technology in the United States and Japan as well as Korea. Namhae chemicals says it will build a plant with a capacity of 10,000 tons of the fertilizer a year by 1994 and hopes to export some of the output.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

UMNO Supports Rally Against Kelantan Ruler

BK1204134493 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Supreme Council today expressed its support for Kelantan citizens who staged a demonstration last Saturday against the Kelantan sultan's involvement in politics and administration of the state. UMNO President Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the demonstration staged in Kota Baharu showed that the majority of the Kelantan people had lost confidence in the Kelantan sultan. He was speaking at a news conference after chairing the party Supreme Council's meeting, which lasted almost three hours, at the UMNO headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. He also expressed sorrow over the palace's refusal to receive a memorandum from a representative during the demonstration. This shows the sultan's undemocratic attitude. The sultan wants to play politics but cannot afford to listen to the people's appeals.

20 Arrested at Rally

BK1204140293 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Police have arrested 20 men aged between 17 and 55 for questioning over an unauthorized public rally that took place in Kota Baharu last Saturday. Assistant Superintendent of Police Rusli Awaz, deputy chief of the Kelantan Criminal Investigation Department, said 17 of them were arrested for possession of weapons such as knives and [word indistinct], while the other three were detained for other offenses. However, the 17 men were released on bail last Saturday and Sunday, while the three others are still being detained for further investigation. He was speaking during a news conference at his office in Kota Baharu this afternoon. None of them were arrested at the rally site, but on several highways where police had set up road blocks last Saturday and Sunday. They are natives of Kelantan.

Group Delivers Protest Note to Kelantan Sultan

BK1304111593 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[By Hisham Mahzan, Shamsul Akmar, and Saiful Mahadhir]

[Text] Kota Baru, Sat—A 10-member delegation claiming to represent "the people of Kelantan" today delivered to the Istana Balai Besar [Royal Palace in Kota Baru] here a memorandum protesting against Sultan Ismail Petra's involvement in politics.

This followed a rakyat [people] gathering at the State UMNO [United Malays National Organization] building which seemed to be a substitute for the original plan by the Persatuan Penyelia Pembangunan Mukim [Territorial Subdivision Development Supervisors Association] whose application for a permit to hold it at the Istana Balai Besar was rejected by the police yesterday.

The memorandum, addressed to the Sultan, called on him to make up his mind on whether to remain as Sultan and refrain from meddling in politics or become a politician and face the consequences.

It states that the Sultan's involvement in politics and the State administration will cause the rakyat to lose faith in him. The Sultan's behaviour has also smeared the monarchy, it adds.

Claiming to speak on behalf of some 50 associations in Kelantan, Che Johan Che Pas, who read out the memorandum during the press conference at the State UMNO building, said it was an expression of the rakyat's voice over the Sultan's involvement in politics.

The memorandum, he said, also sought to point out to the Sultan that his involvement in politics had led the rakyat to be suspicious. Some were questioning whether he had personally wanted to meddle in such matters or whether he was under the influence of some quarters for their political ends.

Che Johan said the rakyat was also questioning whether it was the Sultan himself who had issued directives to certain bodies in the State to take actions which had confused the rakyat when it was clear that the actions were clearly out of his jurisdiction.

The memorandum, Che Johan said, also pointed out to the Sultan the involvement and actions taken by the State Islamic Religion and Malay Customs Council (Maik) in expelling imam issuing warning letters to them, using the mosque as a political platform and delivering Friday sermons which smacked of politics.

Of late, he said, Maik had taken action against an Assemblyman, using the Syariah court [Islamic religious law] to carry out what seemed to be a political vendetta.

Che Johan said it was clear Maik was acting under the Sultan's directive as it was an institution under his patronage.

He said there was now a move to fan anti-Federal sentiments and it had been proven the Sultan's private secretary was involved. This had led the rakyat to believe the directive was from the Sultan.

Che Johan said the memorandum also sought to point out to the Sultan that his actions could affect the image of the rulers' institution throughout the country. If something bad was to happen to the institution or the Sultan himself, then, the Sultan should blame himself for starting it.

He said the Sultan had sidetracked from his role as institutional monarch too far. He should try to correct it immediately.

The memorandum also pointed out that the Sultan's action had caused the State economy to suffer.

Investors had refused to come to the state, existing investments had been transferred to other states, the Federal Govermnent was facing problems in carrying out development projects and unemployment had increased.

Mahathir Discusses Expelling USNO From BN

BK1204150493 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Supreme Council has decided to propose that the United Sabah National Organization, USNO, be expelled from the Barisan Nasional [National Front], BN, for having forged a coalition government with the Parti Bersatu Sabah [Sabah United Party], PBS. Prime Minister and UMNO President Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the BN would not hold a meeting of its Supreme Council to consider USNO's expulsion, but would issue a circular on the proposal to all the component parties except USNO.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said it was up to the BN to use the relevant regulations to expel USNO. He chaired the meeting of the UMNO Supreme Council in Kuala Lumpur today. He also said that it was likely that USNO's expulsion from the BN would be permanent. The party had been expelled from the BN once before, on 15 April 1984. [passage omitted]

Recruitment of Foreign Workers To Stop 11 April

BK1104090293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Recruitment agents in Malaysia have been told to stop bringing in foreign workers effective from today. Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said recruitment was being suspended to overcome the surplus of migrant labor in Malaysia now. There are 240,000 registered foreign workers, but without work permits in the country.

Mr. Ghafar said the move was necessary to take stock of the current situation because disorderly recruitment in the past had hampered the government's control over foreign workers. The deputy prime minister was speaking to newsmen in Kepala Batas, Penang.

Melaka State, Singapore Sign Economic Accord

BK1204145093 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Singapore's total investments in Malaysia have shown an upward trend over the past five years from 28 million ringgit in 1987 to 46.5 billion ringgit last year. Its senior minister [of state] of trade and industry, Lim Boon Heng, said the total amount had brought Singapore-Malaysia trade relations the biggest between two ASEAN countries. He was speaking at the agreement signing ceremony of Melaka-Singapore economic cooperation with Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik in Bandar Melaka. Mr. Lim said Singapore had so far signed two cooperation agreements with Johor and Pahang, while the cooperation with Melaka was the third involving Malaysian states. He said interest to invest in Malaysia was based on economic stability, telecommunications, infrastructure facilities, transport, and energy as well as attractive investment incentives.

Singapore

Daily Views Election Prospects in Cambodia

BK1304100993 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Apr 93 p 28

[Editorial: "What good can polls do?"]

[Text] Political and ethnic violence in Cambodia increased sharply last month. What lies ahead, with election campaign having just started, could be much worse. If the polls next month are held successfully and a new government takes charge, the Khmer Rouge would become an outlaw. The UN Security Council has unanimously agreed to recognise the government that emerges from the May election as the sole legitimate authority. Undeterred, the Khmer Rouge has said it will not participate and has implicitly threatened to disrupt the polls. It has also warned of more violence against Vietnamese nationals. Whipping up anti-Vietnamese sentiment seems aimed at hurting the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) politically in the run-up to the May election. Perhaps, the Khmer Rouge also hopes to provoke a Vietnamese intervention. Hanoi has urged the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to do more to protect the Vietnamese. But Vietnam is unlikely to fall into the Khmer Rouge trap. The Hun Sen regime has stood by, since defending ethnic Vietnamese would damage its electoral prospects. It already carries the pro-Vietnamese stigma, with much of its popularity linked to anti-Khmer Rouge sentiment in the country.

The election would be under greater threat from acts of disruption if and when polling takes place. UNTAC believes it can protect the polling booths, election agents, and ballot boxes. It is also optimistic about a high turnout, maintaining that the Khmer Rouge will not be able to cause much disturbance in areas outside its control, where most Cambodians live. But this remains to be seen. The ruling CPP's attitude will also have a significant impact on the prospects of holding the election. If the campaigning should reveal that its main rival, the National United Front (FUNCINPEC), is likely to do better, the Hun Sen regime may take provocations by the Khmer Rouge as an excuse to launch an all-out offensive against its arch-enemy. It has warned the Khmer Rouge of decisive action against its stronghold in Pailin. Elections can hardly be held if a full-scale armed conflict erupts. Indeed, if this happens, UNTAC may decide to pull out of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge would relish such a development. But there is hope that this can be averted. Neither CPP nor FUNCINPEC is expected to win at the polls by a big margin. A coalition government would need the CPP's military power to keep the Khmer Rouge at bay. Another source of uncertainty is the role of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Under pressure from UN Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali, he has agreed to back the peace process. But the unpredictable prince can just as easily reverse course.

Unfortunately, the election may be of limited importance. Even if UNTAC manages to bring it off, peace in Cambodia will remain distant since one of the key political forces, the Khmer Rouge, is not part of the political process. No doubt, the election cannot be postponed. The UN peace operation has been costly, carrying a U.S.$2 billion price tag, while there is little chance of the Khmer Rouge joining the electoral process. But the polls should not be seen as a make-or-break event for Cambodia. The country can easily slip back into civil war, especially with one party not participating. Political polarisation remains unchanged, despite the winding down of the 13-year civil war in October 1991 when the Paris peace accord was signed. Indeed, a split mandate in the election could work to the Khmer Rouge's advantage, unless the CPP and FUNCINPEC are able to make common cause against it. This is uncertain, given Prince Sihanouk's unpredictability. The main difference that the polls can make to the Cambodian situation is to weaken the Khmer Rouge's external position. But the parties to the peace process can only take advantage of this by staying together. Otherwise, one wonders what good the election will do. The polls, in fact, could hasten Cambodia's relapse into civil war by forcing the warring factions into destabilising acts. Such is the mess in Cambodia.

Military Exercises With Malaysia End 7 April

BK0804135593 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Apr 93 p 2

[By Dominic Nathan]

[Text] Dawn broke over Lim Chu Kang to the sound of explosions and machine-gun fire yesterday as troops from Singapore and Malaysia fought side-by-side to free an "enemy-held" village in their first joint urban warfare exercise.

Some 630 officers and men from the Singapore Armed Forces and the Malaysian Armed Forces took part in the three-day exercise, which ended yesterday. The assault was on the village in Sarimbum used for training troops in Fighting In Built-Up Areas (Fibua).

The exercise, codenamed Semangat Bersatu or Unity in Spirit, was the fourth in a series of combined land exercises conducted by the two armies to foster bilateral co-operation and mutual understanding.

The participating troops for this year's exercise comprised the 500 strong 1st Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (1 SIR) and a company of about 130 officers and men from MAF's [Malaysian Armed Forces] 15th Royal Malay Regiment (15 RMR).

Witnessing the exercise were the Chief of Army Brigadier-General Lim Neo Chian, and the MAF's Army Corps Commander, Lieutenant- General Othman Harun.

The troops made their way to the enemy-held village in the night and launched the attack just before dawn with a simulated artillery barrage on the buildings. After gaining a foothold in a building at the far-end of the village, the troops went on to occupy the entire village, taking each building, room by room.

After the attack, "casualties" were evacuated by a helicopter from the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

In preparation for the attack, the participants went through orientation training to familiarise themselves with each other's operating procedures and the training areas so that the units could understand each other better during the exercise.

Major Seah Cheng San, commanding officer of 1 SIR, said that the exercise provided troops from both armies the opportunity to learn about each other professionally and also foster friendship at all levels.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Lathfi, commanding officer of 15 RMR, said that his troops also gained experience in Fibua operations which would become more important for them in future with growing urbanisation in Malaysia.

He added "The social interaction is just as important because to understand one another is to appreciate each other's peculiarities."

Cambodia

Phnom Penh Reports KR Attack on U.S. MIA Team

BK1304101093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] A group of the genocidal rebels attacked the living quarters of the team searching for remains of U.S. servicemen missing in Indochina in Stung Treng Province recently. The raid forced 50 U.S. staff members to rush by helicopter back to Phnom Penh. In the meantime, Khmer Rouge [Khmer Rouge] rebels shot at a helicopter but no casualties were reported. The attack shows the true war-mongering nature of the Khmer

Rouge rebels, who, refusing to respect the Paris peace accord, have now become more and more cruel.

Human Rights Groups Allege Voter Intimidation

BK1304080093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 13 (AFP)—Foreign and local human rights workers in Cambodia said in a report released Tuesday that Phnom Penh government authorities are systematically harassing and intimidating people into voting for them in the upcoming May elections. The deaths of more than 100 people in March—including ethnic Vietnamese, Cambodians and U.N. peacekeepers directly targetted by the Khmer Rouge—led the human rights groups to make a joint statement questioning the neutral political environment that is a prerequisite to holding the elections.

"We express our grave concern that the violent events of March, and of the entire pre-election period, completely negate any pretense of a neutral political environment," the Human Rights Task Force on the Cambodian Elections said in a report. "If the violence and systematic intimidation continue unabated, the human rights movement in Cambodia will be forced to consider whether it can recommend to the world community that the May elections can be certified as a free expression of the will of the Cambodian people," it said.

United Nations officials, including U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, have said the U.N.-run polls scheduled for May 23-28 will go on despite the deteriorating security situation throughout the country.

The report found that government authorities "have undertaken a comprehensive effort to intimidate the electorate and coerce it into voting for the CPP," the government's Cambodian People's Party. In the western province of Battambang, a village chief had organized villagers into small groups to be escorted to the polls by government officials and told how to vote, the report said.

"The Task Force has received a detailed report of a similarly comprehensive effort to control the entire electoral process in Kompong Cham," Cambodia's most populous province north of Phnom Penh, it said.

In Battambang, some 90 percent of the electorate had been intimidated by having their voter registration cards taken away by the government authorities, it said. "The cards are often returned eventually, but the result is intimidation and harassment of the voters, who ... have little faith in their own ability to resist CPP control," it said. "Voters are told that ... (those) who are 'disloyal' to the CPP will be punished," the report said.

Intimidation of political party activists by drunken government soldiers has been reported in at least 10 of Cambodia's 21 provinces, the Human Rights Task Force said. "These forms of non-lethal intimidation and harassment have a chilling effect on the ability of opposition parties to operate freely and effectively, because they occur in the context of a series of lethal attacks over the past year," it said.

The Task Force documented the politically motivated murders of five opposition party members in March, and said the motives for an additional five killings were unclear. It also noted a large number of kidnappings by the Khmer Rouge which are largely unreported because of lack of access to Khmer Rouge zones.

The head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, has acknowledged that the provisions of the 1991 Cambodian peace agreement requiring the neutral political environment cannot be fulfilled. "Even if conditions are not perfect, and we all know they will not be, I am still prepared to declare the election free and fair if I consider it represents the best possible reflection of the will of the people of Cambodia that can be had under the circumstances," he told Cambodian faction leaders last week.

The Human Rights Task Force is funded by UNTAC and run by human rights advocates from the International Human Rights Law Group in the United States and the International Center for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka.

Election Workers: Khmer Rouge 'Jeopardize' Polls

BK1304094493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, April 13 (AFP)—U.N. electoral workers throughout Cambodia say a systematic Khmer Rouge plan to destabilize upcoming U.N. elections and attack peacekeepers will seriously jeopardize the holding of free and fair elections, and are questioning whether they will agree to the mechanics of carrying it off. Following the shooting death of their Japanese colleague last week at the hands of suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas, many of the U.N. electoral workers who are posted in the most remote districts of Cambodia have come to Phnom Penh to demand that U.N. peacekeepers protect them. Some have threatened to quit if they do not. As the actual people who will be setting up ballot boxes and running the polling for the U.N. election May 23-27, their participation is critical to holding the election. Many are questioning whether an election can be held at all in an increasingly unstable countryside, and many have decided not to return to their districts.

"The security situation has deteriorated very, very much and we are receiving direct threats," said Nikoley Nikolaev, a Bulgarian electoral officer in central Kompong Thom province who responded to a two-way radio plea for help from his Japanese colleague and arrived to find him dead of bullet wounds to the face and chest. "We don't want to risk our lives for this cause. Before we were highly motivated, but this is senseless," he told AFP.

"We can't do this (election) in a place where people are scared to death, shelling is going on and there is shooting and killing all the time."

Not more than two or three of his 13 remaining colleagues will return to Kompong Thom, he said. "We don't want to be shot at like chickens," he said.

In the neighboring province of Kompong Cham, American electoral officer Tanya Lieberman questioned the fundamental premise of holding the election even if her safety is assured. "It's at the level where we're standing in the middle of a battlefield saying there's peace and nobody's listening," she said.

"I don't think we will be able to stay and carry out the election," she said, citing information she obtained that villagers in areas of her district controlled by the Khmer Rouge have been armed and told to attack the polling site on election day. "The people in the district are absolutely petrified," she said. "They (U.N. peacekeepers) told me to move the polling site, but it's not going to be hard to find."

Despite the threats and the murders of more than 100 people in Cambodia in March alone—including several peacekeepers—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said on his visit here last week that the elections would go ahead and that the United Nations would not be intimidated.

"It's easy to say we're not going to be intimidated if you're not living in a little wooden house in an isolated district with no protection," Lieberman said. "How many more of us have to die before we call a spade a spade and go home?"

She said she would consider returning to Kompong Cham if more security measures were taken, but her Chinese colleague posted to northwestern Siem Reap province had already decided to go home to his asylum in Canada. Liu He, a pro-democracy protestor who escaped the crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, said he had already struggled to survive in the name of democracy and was not anxious to do it again.

"Sometimes you have to be selfish about your life," he said, adding that he feared the Khmer Rouge were deliberately targetting Japanese and that he did not want to die in a case of mistaken identity. "Siem Reap is a very intense area," he said. "Every moment you sense the danger. With the situation getting worse, one could easily assume that the dangerous side can take the upper hand."

But in the western province of Pursat, Masud Siddique of Bangladesh said he would return and carry out his work with the hope of increased security. Whether the election will be free and fair is another question, he said. The government commune chief in his district has complete control over how the electorate will vote, despite his efforts to hold civic education training.

"The commune chief orders them not to come. He will just dictate to the people," Siddique said.

Spokesman Views Political Situation

BK1304105193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Khieu Kanharit, spokesman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, held a weekly news conference in the presence of national and international reporters as well as representatives from various embassies in Cambodia at Sakal Muoy Hotel on the morning of 12 April.

Khieu Kanharit said an investigation into the assassination of a Japanese volunteer in Kompong Thom Province proved that a group of Khmer Rouge troops from Division 802 were responsible for the killing. He said currently the SOC and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] were holding discussions aimed at reaching an agreement on cooperation to provide security at polling sites. In principle, UNTAC is responsible for providing protection in [words indistinct] constituencies. As for Constituencies 2 and 3, they will be under the SOC's protection. The agreement will be signed by General Ke Kimyan, representing the Defense Ministry; Gen. Sin Sen, representing the National Security Ministry of the SOC; Gen. John Sanderson, representing the UNTAC military forces; and Gen. (Ruth), representing the UNTAC police forces.

On Butrus Butrus-Ghali's recent visit, Khieu Kanharit said the SOC had presented a memorandum to the UN secretary general demanding that UNTAC's current mandate be changed. Also demanded was the expulsion of the Khmer Rouge from the Supreme National Council [SNC]. And at the 10 April SNC meeting, the SOC side launched another three-point appeal calling for the punishment of all violence regardless of its motive, sending the violence-related offenders to trial, and ensuring security for the UNTAC staff members by all SNC factions.

His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk made a statement calling on all armed political parties to put a halt to violence against UNTAC personnel. The statement was endorsed in writing by the SOC, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and Khmer People's National Liberation Front factions. As for Khieu Samphan, he vehemently refused to support the prince's statement.

On the issue of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia, Khieu Kanharit said HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk asked that the matter be left for a new government to settle peacefully with the Vietnamese Government.

Commenting on the proposal by Son Sann's faction that the Treaty on Solidarity, Friendship, and Cooperation with Vietnam and the border treaty be abolished, Khieu Kanharit said the first treaty signed in 1979 has been dissolved automatically since the Paris accord was signed in 1991. As for the border treaty, the four Cambodian factions have already accepted a map on which an agreement has been reached with Vietnam. If one is doubtful about an issue, it should be raised with the Technical Commission on Border Issues, which should then conduct an on-the-spot inquiry.

Government Tries To Counter 'Wild' Currency Shifts

BK1204105893 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 26 Mar-8 Apr 93 p 12

[By Mang Channo and Ker Munthit: "Markets Close as Riel Hits Record Low"]

[Text] Despite recent efforts by the State of Cambodia to stem wild fluctuations by the national currency, the riel plummeted again in mid-March, losing nearly 80 percent of its value against the dollar within a 72 hour period.

Prices of goods sky-rocketed and merchants closed up shop as the price of the dollar rose from around 2,500 riel on Thursday morning to 4,500 in trading early Saturday.

In the provinces the situation was even worse. In Siem Reap the dollar was reportedly changing for as much as 8,000 riel.

Last week's dramatic currency fluctuation came after a period of stabilization and left economists groping for answers as to what had triggered the situation.

Sources at the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) dismissed early speculation that the State of Cambodia (SOC) had been printing fresh money to cover its chronic debts, a practice that had triggered earlier devaluations of the riel.

"It's either a reaction to expansion in supply or decrease in demand or some combination of the two. Demand for the riel has shrunk very rapidly, perhaps due to a loss of confidence (in SOC)," said Roger Lawrence, economic advisor for UNTAC.

Amid the confusion, rumors spread throughout the city that a new government currency would replace the SOC-issued riel as the national currency piling more pressure on the riel.

The price of basic foodstuffs soared in response to the plunging riel. The price of pork had increased four-fold by Saturday morning, up from 5,000 riel per kilo to 20,000. The price of rice rose from 200 to 1,200 riel per kilo.

Farmers began refusing to accept riel for their produce, demanding to be paid in gold, dollars or Thai baht.

Traders at O Russei, Kandal, Thmei and other markets across Phnom Penh who faced the risk of large losses on Saturday's trading shut up shop and markets were closed across the city.

Particularly hard-hit by the fall in value of the riel was the large percentage of the population who do not have access to dollars to protect themselves or employees on fixed salaries.

"I usually pay 600 riel for one meal. Though I never dare have a bowl of noodles, but today I had to pay 3,000 for the same meal," Sun Chhoeun, a cyclo [pedicab] driver, said.

Soen, another cyclo driver sat alone in front of the deserted Phsa Thmei market, visibly upset.

"Oh my God, how can we match the marketprice. My breakfast yesterday cost 800 riel and now it is 2,500 riel and I have children to feed as well," he said.

The riel's dramatic fall evoked memories of the last days of the Lon Nol regime and rumors began circulating Phnom Penh that students would demonstrate against the spiralling cost.

SOC ministers blamed the explosion of prices on its political opponents, saying they were trying to destabilize its administration in the run-up to the election.

"Political saboteurs and big businessmen are taking advantage of the situation as part of their political campaign and for profit," said Vice Minister of Finance Chheang Vun.

SOC spokesman Khieu Kanharit blamed the frenzied currency trading on an injection of Khmer Rouge bank notes worth U.S. $200,000 into the country's economy and rumors of terrified Vietnamese changing their savings and fleeing for their homeland after the Siem Reap massacre.

Chheang accused private aid organizations and the U.N. peacekeeping mission of exacerbating the problem.

"The NGO's and UNTAC say they want to help the Cambodian people but at the same time they refuse to use riel and only make the situation worse and worse," he said.

Chheang Vun said SOC would not issue any new large denomination notes.

Un Pin, chief of Phsa Thmei said merchants refusing to accept the unpopular 50 riel "would be toughly dealt with."

"Those who refuse to accept will be accused of staging economic sabotage. That's why we must succeed because the elections are coming." Late in January, the National Assembly adopted a law intended to control the circulation of the riel and stem the flow of counterfeit bank notes onto the market. Individuals who breach the law face a fine from 100,000 to 200,000 riels or imprisonment from one month to one year depending on the seriousness of the violation.

Since January, SOC-run radio and television have broadcast statements from the National Bank of Cambodia saying that the 50-riel note was still a valid currency. But all the government efforts to control the currency have met with little success.

"Our bank is too slow to react, that's why we have all these problems," Kanharit said Mar. 23.

"Now we are reviewing our banking systems so we can react quickly to the situation," he said.

He said that on Friday and Saturday the government was trying to utilize its slim hard currency reserves to reduce the fluctuation of the exchange rate. "We prepare some movements, and we are ready to spend millions of dollars to curb the situation. Our main objective is to bring the exchange rate down to 2,500 riels to a dollar," said Kanharit.

At the Olympic Market, every stand-shop has a sticker-note issued by the market controllers, which says "I accept all types of denomination notes without lowering the face value [local term: Kat Toek]."

But merchants and market officials said they were skeptical about SOC's ability to contain the riel.

"The bank has never been effective at all. No clear measure has ever been seen. Its sub-decrees only make everybody feel exhausted," said 43 year-old Klot Samkhan, chief of O Russei market.

"If we want the riel to be stable again we should do something within the next two or three days otherwise other problems will crop up and the riel will further devaluate," he predicted.

Sihanouk, UNDP Sign $7.1-Million Aid Program

BK1204070293 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0423 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 12—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s aid of 7.1 million U.S. dollars to Cambodia was signed here on April 3 by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and Mr. William H. Draper, administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

The Area Development Programme/Cambodia Resettlement and Reintegration (more commonly known as "CARERE") is a joint undertaking between the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], and the UNDP, although the official signing ceremony for this project was not held until this month, the CARERE programme was launched in July 1991. With the official signing of the document, the project now has a stand-alone status and an increased budget allocation.

CARERE's field presence is in three Provincial Support Units (or PSU's), made up of technical experts in various fields such as engineering, water, agronomy and community development. Currently CARERE has PSU's in Pursat Province, Battambang Province and Banteay Meanchy Province, the three PSU's are back-stopped by a Phnom Penh CARERE office headed by the programme manager, a senior programme officer, a health officer who covers all three PSU's and administrative/logistical staff.

The CARERE PSU's have essentially two functions: Firstly, in recognition of the fact that low institutional and absorptive capacities at all levels of national, provincial and district administration in Cambodia pose a serious obstacle for donors attempting to effectively deliver reintegration programmes to rural areas, the PSU aims to support and strengthen the technical and managerial structures needed to assist local administration and donors in identifying needs, in mobilizing and coordinating funds, and in implementing community development projects to meet these needs.

Secondly, in addition to addressing the problem of weak institutional capacities, CARERE has also sought to directly address the needs of rural communities, through the development and implementation of a repeatable methodology of community development based on a "self-help" approach, this component of UNDP's reintegration package, the Area Development Programme, currently targets selected communities in the three northwestern provinces of Pursat, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey and is also implemented by the Provincial Support Units of CARERE.

The signing ceremony and andience with H.R.H. [His Royal Highness] Prince Norodom Sihanouk come at the end of a two day visit by the UNDP administrator to Cambodia. During his visit, Mr. Draper met with Mr. Akashi, special representative of the Secretary-General, ambassadors from the permanent five and Australia and Thailand, and the heads of UN agencies working in Cambodia, Mr. Draper also met with H.E. [His Excellency] Mr. Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Sam Rangsi, FUNCINPEC representative to the SNC [Supreme National Council], H.E. Mr. Dit Munti, SoC representative to the SNC and H.E. Mr. Penn Thol, KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] representative to the SNC secretariat.

Issues discussed during Mr. Draper's visit included, inter alia, the need to rapidly establish, post-UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the traditional coordination role of UNDP for technical assistance, suitable arrangements for an efficient disposal of UNTAC equipment, the need for an expansion of donor assistance to eastern and southeastern Cambodia, and the success of UNDP and UNHCR collaboration in this country.

Also during the visit, Mr. Draper officially opened the new UNDP/Australian Peam Satha bridge 27 km north of Phnom Penh on Route Nationale 5 with H.E. Mr. John Holloway, Ausiralian ambassador. Mr. Draper also visited Siem Reap to observe UNDP-financed ILO [International Labor Organization] projects for small enterprise promotion, vocational training and labour-based public works, as well as a UNESCO programme aimed at establishing a zoning and environmental management plan for the Angkor area, which is in part financed by UNDP. The UNDP administrator also visited Banteay Meanchey Province together with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ms. Sadako Ogata, where they together opened a new road and school built by the joint UNDP/UNHCR CARERE programme, and observed demining activities by the Norwegian People's Army (NPA) demining teams in Svay Chek District.

Commentary Warns of Postelection Instability, War

BK1104105993 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Station commentary: "The Elections To Be Held by UNTAC in a Situation Where Insecurity and Terrorism Are Prevalent is Tantamount To Rekindling the War in Cambodia"]

[Text] Lately, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] chiefs have shamelessly made it public that UNTAC has decided to go ahead with the elections despite the growing insecurity and terrorism in Cambodia. The general public has said that the decision is completely wrong, both legally and factually.

1. Holding the elections is totally against the Paris 23 October 1991 Accord. In other words, UNTAC has organized the polls in a situation where it has not verified the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] presence, given the Supreme National Council a role, and run the five ministries of the Yuon puppets.

2. How can the elections be held freely and democratically when the issue of the presence of over 2 million old and new Yuon forces in Cambodia and the issue of more than one million Yuon holding Cambodian identity cards in preparation for taking part in the polls have not yet been solved?

3. Can the elections be held freely and democratically under the total control of the Yuon puppet regime?

We must ask that since the elections are wrong as such, why do the UNTAC chiefs persist in making such an arbitrary decision?

The UNTAC chiefs need to make such a decision because it is part of the strategy of the alliances, whose resolved determination is to hold the elections in order to legitimize the Yuon lackey puppets' regime regardless of the regime's immediate collapse after the polls. It is with this ambition that Akashi is absolutely determined to make such an irresponsible decision.

The general public believes that the situation will certainly become more and more tense because fighting between the forces that want to hand over Cambodia to the Yuon and the 8 million Cambodian people—who are refusing to kneel down and accept the death blow, and who are struggling for the Cambodian nation and people to survive as a nation, a people, and a country with independence, sovereignty, neutrality, and territorial integrity as in the years preceding 1970—is now decisive.

Given the situation, the UNTAC chiefs will definitely assume, before the Cambodian people and history, all responsibility for rekindling the flame of war in Cambodia and creating instability in Southeast Asia. In the end, the war will become widespread, and it will then set ablaze the heads of the Yuon aggressors and puppets and UNTAC itself.

Khieu Samphan Greets Sihanouk on New Year

BK1004095193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Apr 93

["Message of traditional New Year greetings from His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the Supreme National Council, to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council"; dated 10 April—read by announcer]

[Text] To: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] at the Royal Palace.

Esteemed samdech [prince]: On the celebration of the year of the rooster, B.E. 2536, all of us, including cadres and male and female combatants of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], would like to express best wishes to the revered samdech, head of state and SNC chairman, and princess consort. May you, the supreme leader of our nation and people, and the princess consort, enjoy the best of health, longevity, and happiness forever.

For half a century you have surmounted countless obstacles and difficulties in order to defend the cause of our nation's independence, sovereignty, peace, and territorial integrity. You have clear-sightedly shown our nation and people the dark situation concerning our country presently via the following historical appeal:

At the end of 1992 and the beginning of 1993, Cambodia began to lose its soul because its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and economic autonomy that existed in the 1960's have been taken away. I would like to earnestly call on all Cambodian factions and political parties, as well as all compatriots, both male and female, who have always claimed to be patriotic to wake up to the great and deadly danger now facing our beloved and sacred Cambodia.

History and Cambodians of future generations will judge and strongly condemn all the Cambodian factions, political parties, and Cambodians, male and female alike, who have allowed foreigners to stage an invasion and occupation, to implant themselves, to send their citizens to control and suck away natural resources from Cambodia's terrestrial and maritime territory, and to discard the Cambodian people for the purpose of misappropriating our country's land in some areas for their permanent settlement.

Your emotional appeal that has made our people realize the consequences of the current dark situation has now become an active impetus. After listening to your appeal, the Phnom Penh residents, like all of our people in and outside the country, have made up their mind and are prepared to follow you in your second crusade to wrest back our independence. This is to allow our nation and people to again live in peace, as in the era preceding 1969.

On the occasion of our traditional New Year, I am very pleased to join our nation and people as a whole to extend best wishes to you, the head of state and SNC chairman, and the princess consort.

Samdech and princess consort, please, accept our deepest, respectful, and affectionate sentiments.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 10 April
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, PDK chairman and SNC member

Hun Sen Addresses Voters in Kandal Province

BK0804134393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Speech by Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, at the inauguration of a Buddhist temple, in Vihear Suor Commune, Khsach Kandal District, Kandal Province, on 5 April—recorded]

[Text] My respects to the venerable Supreme Patriarch and all venerable Buddhist monks; most beloved and esteemed compatriots attending the inauguration of the Vihear Suor temple:

I thank the venerable Supreme Patriarch and all venerable Buddhist monks for taking part in the inauguration of the temple which was rebuilt after it was destroyed by the Pol Pot clique. I also thank all compatriots and the Buddhist faithful who are massively attending the inaugural ceremonies organized in accordance with our Buddhist mores and traditions.

As the vice chairman of Kandal Province just said in his speech, the tragedies caused by the polpotists against our people are many and untold. As one of the multiple consequences, the Vihear Suor temple, a traditional site of worship for the Cambodian people, was razed. I still remember when I visited this place for the first time, nothing much could be seen of this temple except a few images of Lord Buddha standing desolately under a decrepit roof built provisionally by some Buddhist faithful who wanted to restore this place to a site of worship for our compatriots.

Understanding this reason and thanks to the completion of the Preah Kanlong Bridge which links Prek Ta Meak with Vihear Suor and also with Peareang in the future, in May we will inaugurate the Peareang Bridge built by General Sin Song and his wife with a generous contribution from Mr. Chhai Bamrong of the Chhai Bamrong Company and Mr. Chheng Bunma. This will greatly help speed up travel from Prey Veng Province through a portion of Kandal to Phnom Penh.

I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Eap Vanthan, who has made the biggest contribution to the construction of this temple. In reality, we have spent more than seven months on the construction of this temple. The actual groundbreaking, however, took place in 1990, but because of a lack of funds we kept postponing the construction. Later, Mr. Eap Vanthan and his wife donated money to finish construction before our traditional new year days. Yesterday, I thanked the dancers who staged the traditional prayer ceremony. This was required because here, in this place, every undertaking should first get the authorization of the local elders. They commanded that a prayer ceremony be staged to get blessing for the ceremony ground. Yesterday, we held the prayer ceremony and today we are going to plant the votive stones.

I would like to take this opportunity also to thank Oknha Suos Srun for donating $10,000 for the improvement of traffic linking Vihear Suor with Prek Ta Meak. I have already built the Preah Kanlong Bridge. The bridge was beautiful but the road was ugly; hence this donation. I traveled the road yesterday and today and I saw that the road has now become equally pretty. The young children who have to travel from Vihear Suor, Kanlong, and other areas on this side, those who have to go to the secondary school in Prek Ta Meak must now be happy because they can ride their bikes or motorcycles on a less bumpy road and can travel much faster than before.

The achievements, large and small, that we have made in the districts of Kandal Province, those made throughout the country and particularly those in Kandal Province, are many. There are bridges, schools, ponds, wells, monasteries, Buddhist temples, and Islamic mosques and they are made possible thanks to the contribution of the party and the charitable individuals who have mercy and affection for our nation that came through great misery and hardship in the past.

As we are celebrating the inauguration of this imposing temple, we must not forget what took place more than 14 years ago. Today, I humbly ask the venerable Supreme Patriarch, all venerable Buddhist monks, and all beloved compatriots to remember and consider the fact that all merits that emanate from this ceremony must be an offering to the souls of those who died most miserably under Pol Pot's genocidal regime. This is because those who died, before rendering their last breath, had their thoughts mainly focussed on the fate of their brothers, sisters, parents, and children. After they died, what would happen to their children, to their parents, to their kith and kin? For this reason, since we have survived, our merit-making today should be dedicated to the ancesters, benefactors, and relatives who passed away not because of their fault, who passed away in most tragic tortures. In recalling all of this, we are able to see the past as a very bitter experience for our entire nation, not just for the people of Kandal Province alone. Those who left us did not bequeath anything to us but bitterness. Therefore, along with dedicating the merits to the memory of the dead, we still have the duty to see to it that the genocidal regime will not return, must strive to make our country prosperous and render the life of each family, each citizen, and each individual throughout the country happy and bounteous.

Today we recall the past so that we can clearly see the present. I also would like to take this opportunity, though this must not be part of a political campaign because the start of the electoral campaign is still two days away, I deem this a chance for me to recollect the past and also predict the future.

True, the days prior to the traditional New Year in April are extremely hot for the compatriots sitting in front of me. But I am not going to take much time because we still have to hold the food-offering ceremony. Nevertheless, there is some shade under coconut and palm trees and there are ceremonial tents for you to take refuge in.

As I have informed the venerable Supreme Patriarch, all venerable Buddhist monks, and compatriots just now, recalling the past not only leads us to make merit in memory of the dead, but it can also help us see the progress achieved during the past 14 years. I understand that all our compatriots know well what we had in 1979. And speaking of this matter also makes us see the important role played by the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. No other party except the CPP dared stand up to Pol Pot's genocidal regime. No other party dared. Now, there are 20 parties that are going to take part in the elections. Do not forget, however, that among the 20 political parties that will contest the elections, it is only the CPP that dared rise up against the genocidal Pol Pot regime and never abandoned the people from the most difficult time to the present relatively merciful time. I do not reproach those of our compatriots who are leaders of various parties created for the upcoming elections. I also express joy at seeing them survive death under the Pol Pot regime. I am glad to see that these people survived death under the Pol Pot regime, went to live overseas, and now are fortunate enough to return home and set up political parties to contest the elections. However, I would like to take this opportunity to stress that besides the CPP no other parties have helped rescue the Cambodian people from Pol Pot's genocidal regime. Only this party consented to share life and death with the Cambodian people and over the past more than 14 years no other parties except the CPP have revived the nation. It is only the CPP that has revived the Cambodian nation.

In my opinion, we can see proof of that through the development of Khsach Kandal District, a district geographically not too far from the capital but which seemed so remote that not a single prime minister or minister visited it before—no minister or prime minister had ever slept in Kanlong village before this Prime Minister Hun Sen did, I am sure, and possibly no brothers in this entire region have ever seen another prime minister riding a motorcycle several days and nights in a row in order to meet with them, or have they seen the Preah Kanlong bridge repaired under dire conditions.

When we built bridges, a number of parties joined hands with Pol Pot to destroy them; when we built schools, they joined hands with Pol Pot to torch them. This has happened for the past dozen years.

At present, a number of parties have boasted that they will do this and that if they win the elections. I just listen to them without paying much attention. This morning I heard them boast again. In my opinion, if they really do what they have promised, Cambodia would become richer than Japan itself, for each party has promised to do a lot of things. If they really keep the promises and carry them out before the elections, Cambodia would become richer than Japan. Do not forget, there are 20 of them. Only the CPP does not dare make promises. Yesterday, I walked along the ceremonial tents and I received so many petitions. And I got more this morning. The petitions asked for money for the construction of schools, bridges, Buddhist temples, and Islamic mosques. I have never dared make any promises. We do only what we can. I never promised the reconstruction of Vihear Suor temple. We asked only for contributions. We finally completed the construction only because Mr. Eap Vanthan said we had to do it at any cost. And we did it.

If we believed the other parties, all Cambodians would be in space, and all Cambodians would own cars and planes. However, do not forget that over the past 14 years they have done nothing but cooperate with Pol Pot to ruin the nation and the country's survival.

I would like to beg pardon from some political parties. A few of them have not attacked the CPP. They were just established in 1991 or 1992 and have not done anything to hurt the CPP. Others verbally attacked us from abroad and supported the tripartite coalition at the border against us. A few have not done anything against us at all. The leader of a party was taken aback by what he saw when he arrived in Phnom Penh. He said it was too late for him to dissolve his party, he had no choice but to continue leading it to save face. But he was man enough to admit the achievements made by Their Excellencies Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and Heng Samrin. He refused to dissolve his party because of the need to save face. Nevertheless, there are some parties that have sided with Pol Pot for 14 years to undermine us. Now, these parties are joining hands with the Khmer Rouge. FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and Son Sann have now colluded with the Khmer Rouge to block international assistance to the Cambodian people.

We Cambodians are strange. Venerable Supreme Patriarch, venerable Buddhist monks, compatriots: We Cambodians are a hapless lot. It is deplorable that after everything was destroyed and when foreign countries wanted to assist Cambodia in national reconstruction, when they tried to give us money, we Cambodians refused to accept it. And these Cambodians are Khieu Samphan, Son Sann, and Ranariddh. They have vociferously claimed that they love the people, that they want to see the teacher's wages raised, the student's scholarships increased, and the doctor's fees augmented. But together they have worked to block the World Bank's emergency aid. Therefore, we can now see that besides undermining the country they are blocking all construction activities. For more than 14 years and up to the present they have not stopped the destruction.

Allow me, venerable Supreme Patriarch and venerable Buddhist monks, to tell everything before the elections and I would like to take this opportunity to stress that I want to speak out and I will speak out as long as I am alive. When I am dead I will not be able to speak. I do not want to hear people say: Hun Sen met me the other day, why did he not tell me all about that; why did he wait until I am dead under the blows of bamboo sticks, until I suffer so much? The other day we met, the day of the inauguration of the Vihear Suor temple, and he did not talk and now it is too late, the damage has been done.

As long as I can speak, I am going to speak, and what I am saying here is going to be broadcast over Phnom Penh radio and television so that everybody, not just the people of Khsach Kandal but people throughout the country, will be enlightened. I ask for permission to speak out once. Yes, allow me to speak out for once.

The compatriots and venerable wondered why in 1991 and 1992 Mr. Hun Sen never made a radio speech as in the past. Why did he not speak? If I appeared on radio or television it was for press conferences only. And the reports on my visits to various localities never carried full recordings of my voice. This is because I respected a state in which preparations were being made to create an environment for the elections. Moreover, I did not want to upset any of the parties. However, at the time when I stayed mute, I was under constant attacks. I was attacked over the FUNCINPEC radio station, Son Sann's radio station, foreign radios, and even the U.S. radio. I stayed cool because I listened to the elders' saying that when a dog bites your leg you should not bite his leg in return.

Now, however, I have to speak out. This does not mean that I am going to bite the dog's leg in return. I have to speak out in order to prevent the people from dying because Hun Sen did not speak. Hun Sen is going speak out now that he is still alive. Today is 6 April and I am 41 years and two days old, venerable. I entered my 42d year of age on the 4th and we are now the 6th of April. I am not dead yet. Just considering my age I am far from death, but death is unpredictable. Life is like the flame of a lamp. It burns or it dies out. Who knows, maybe I might drop dead after leaving here. But my wife keeps reminding me not to have a reckless mouth, or else what I just said might come true. [laughter] However, the holiness of the Vihear Suor temple will save me and will surely not let down a person who has helped build monasteris and temples. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to speak out straight to the point and I believe that this is the time to do so.

A few days ago I also appeared on television. And the night before also. [Words indistinct] but the other day's statements were made not because I wanted to be seen on television. I had to appear on television to [words indistinct]. However, a party has clandestinely broadcast radio programs in the middle of Phnom Penh. This party is FUNCINPEC. Its leader is a lawyer but it violates the law. I see that Ranariddh is a very stupid person. He fails to let a sleeping dog lie. His radio can barely cover all of Phnom Penh, and he uses it to lambaste Hun Sen directly. He overtly attacks Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen. I have never attacked Prince Ranariddh personally. I mention him only when I need to inform the compatriots about the policy of the party or the current situation of the country. He should have let a sleeping dog lie. His radio can be heard only in Phnom Penh but the 150-kw radio of the State of Cambodia can be heard even in Bangkok. UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] does not forbid him from setting up that radio. If UNTAC does not stop him, I, too, can use our radio. Furthermore, I have television which can be seen in a few provinces. This is what I meant when I said he fails to let a sleeping dog lie. Even now he continues to lambaste me. I am not going to hit back but I am broadcasting my speeches over the radio. His radio can reach at best all of Phnom Penh but my radio can reach a nationwide audience. I already said he should let a sleeing dog lie. The FUNCINPEC people stand to lose.

Now allow me to describe the situation to come. Why did Hun Sen suddenly appeare on television the night before to call for the arrest and trial of Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan? Why? Allow me to inform you that the Khmer Rouge have not respected the Paris agreement. Not only have they refused to implement it, but the Khmer Rouge have also breached the cease-fire and advanced toward committing genocide in Cambodia once again. This genocide includes the massacre of entire villages of innocent people, be it ethnic Khmers or ethnic Vietnamese, and the killing of UNTAC staff members. During a recent meeting, the Khmer Rouge declared a war with UNTAC, with the Cambodian people, and with other political parties. Considering all the activities of the Khmer Rouge under the command of this murderous ringleader Khieu Samphan, I deem it indispensable to implement the convention on preventing and punishing genocidal acts, and Khieu Samphan should be arrested and sent to trial. At the same time, I talked about their allies, Ranariddh and Son Sann, both are the staunch allies of the Khmer Rouge.

Venerable Supreme Patriarch, all venerable Buddhist monks, and compatriots: Have you ever heard Son Sann and Prince Ranariddh condemn the Khmer Rouge? So both of them should also be charged with conspiracy with the genocidal regime. The genocide from 1975 to 1978—three years, eight months, and 20 days—was an act that caused suffering and death to millions of people and left behind countless tragedies for all of us.

For the sake of national reunification, I agreed to postpone the trial of Pol Pot's henchmen. But this does not mean that I have discarded this matter definitively. The trial of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan, and Ta Mok can never be set aside. A U.S. senator asked me whether I abandoned the idea of putting the genocidal ringleaders on trial. I told him that even if I no longer am the prime minister, even if I become a mere minister or an ordinary citizen, I will never give up this idea, for the slaughter of more than 3 million people can be neither forgiven nor forgotten. However, during the stage of national reconciliation, we will temporarily put it on the shelf so that elections can be held.

Now, why then did Hun Sen raise this issue again? This is because of the massacre of the people. For example, in Kompong Thom, as they were watching a video, 22 villagers were killed on the spot and 29 others wounded. In Siem Reap, in a single blow 33 villagers were killed and 38 or 39 others wounded. In Kompong Chhnang, in Kampot, dozens of others were massacred, young and old alike. This is called genocide, be it against ethnic Khmers, ethnic Vietnamese, or any other ethnic people. Be it at war or in peace, such an act is not to be condoned. For this reason, I deem it necessary to repeatedly demand the arrest and trial of the Khmer Rouge ringleader. And it is only correct that while taking the Khmer Rouge ringleader, we should also take his allies who supported this act of genocide. Have these persons ever raised a voice to condemn the Khmer Rouge? No, they have not. Of course, in saying this I hope that they might wake up and pull themselves out of the alliance.

Yesterday—maybe you, Venerable Supreme Patriarch, venerable Buddhist monks, and compatriots, already know about it—a general who is the fifth highest officer in the FUNCINPEC Army made a political choice by breaking rank with FUNCINPEC and rallying to the CPP's side. His reasons are: First, the FUNCINPEC of Rannariddh has openly declared its alliance with the Khmer Rouge; and second, FUNCINPEC has resorted to the basest action of lobbing grenades to kill people, then putting the blame on our party.

We have all the proof in our hands. What is Prince Ranariddh's answer to that? Do not forget that I have asked Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general, to issue warrants for the arrest of those instigating terrorism. Mr. Akashi has the power to issue arrest warrants because he already has arrested a number of people. Now, how is he going to deal with the question of terrorist ringleaders and terrorist underlings. It cannot be condoned, for it is an unacceptably despicable act. They killed people in Battambang and then reported to UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], blaming the crime on the SOC. They killed others in Banteay Meanchey and Sisophon and then reported to UNTAC, accusing the SOC of the crime. Sam Reangsei, son of [former traitorous Sihanouk minister] Sam Sari, reported to Prince Sihanouk and Prince Sihanouk was angry and resented us. All of these incidents cannot be understood, and such crimes are unforgiven. We now have a witness. It is not just my words but the words of a person directly involved who has already talked to the foreign press.

I would like to ask why? I would like to stress another reason why Hun Sen seems to be treating FUNCINPEC so harshly, Hun Sen who once signed a pact with FUNCINPEC. Allow me to inform you, Venerable Supreme Patriarch and compatriots, that I know very well what I must do and what I should do. I am very patient. I spent four years in negotiations. During all that time I never lost hope. But when I dealt with FUNCINPEC, just one year sufficed to see that it was impossible. An alliance without loyalty, one that is tainted by betrayal cannot last. They signed a pact with me in the morning and in the same evening they signed an alliance with Son Sen, the Khmer Rouge chieftain. I just cannot take that. Only after AFP and other foreign press during the demonstration [in Phnom Penh] against Khieu Samphan discovered the document and ran it did I learn about the deception.

Later, the FUNCINPEC people themselves declared that they had to work with the Khmer Rouge, that they had to rely on the Khmer Rouge forces. Therefore, we just cannot see eye to eye on that matter. Moreover, they have never stopped attacking us [words indistinct]. I do not understand that at all. I myself, Mr. Chea Sim, Mr. Heng Samrin, or any other leading official at any level always instructed our soldiers and police to prepare themselves for the national reconciliation stage. In the past, we always arrested other political parties. Now, not only have we refrained from arresting them but we have given them security and protection, sending our police to join UNTAC in guarding their offices. They have called our men guard dogs and other names. But our men have been ordered to remain patient. We have told them never to harm the other parties. While we were doing everything for their good, they instead were training terrorists at the Cambodian-Thai border with the help of foreign forces so that they would come in and lob grenades in Phnom Penh. The grenade attacks in Phnom Penh in the past few days and in some provinces were the work of the Khmer Rouge and their allies, especially FUNCINPEC.

Furthermore, they have sown and incited economic chaos, such as by trying to depreciate the riel currency. Prince Ranariddh himself made an announcement aimed at driving down the value of the riel currency. A few days ago, I made it clear that the riel is our blood and sweat; we just cannot let it become worthless. In 1975 we already had the experience of having our homes and property taken away from us, our riel currency dissolved, our gems, gold, and other valuables confiscated, and even our lives snuffed out. Now we are going to let no one do that to us again. Those daring to say that the riel bank notes are now worthless are polpotists or the henchmen of the genocidal regime.

Therefore, they have been trying to destroy us by all means. When I remain patient and refrain from doing anything that may harm FUNCINPEC, FUNCINPEC instead keeps calling me one-eyed. If they already know that I am one-eyed, what good can they make by calling me name like that? I really am blind in one eye. I would like to inform you, Venerable and compatriots, that I did lose one eye. Why? For what purpose? I would like to add that when my eye was gouged out of its socket, it hurt terribly. It was not an easy operation as there were no anesthetics, only some palliative drugs at that time. My eye had to be gouged out with scalpels and scissors. It hurt me so much, Venerable. And it hurt even more when the socket was operated on to fit the glass eye. The physical pain was truly agony. Now, they have instructed their party members very well to call Hun Sen the one-eyed Jack. To tell their supporters to call Hun Sen one-eyed Jack is a very despicable attitude. Their party leader himself has ridiculed me by calling me one-eyed Jack. Hun Sen, who is somebody important, is already ridiculed for being one-eyed. How lowly then would a really blind person who is not Hun Sen, who is a nobody, be treated?

Ethical, civilized persons have great respect for the handicapped. In France or in the United States handicapped people get priority in subways and at all public places. Why then has this wicked politician instructed his followers to call others one-eyed Jack? They have called me and (?Nhim Vanda) incompetent. They have called us [words indistinct] Khmers. They have also ridiculed Hun Sen by calling me a temple boy. I am not indignant at being called a temple boy, for I really am a former temple boy. It is because Hun Sen is a former temple boy that he has never abandoned any temple. He has worked on a destroyed temple until we all have a magnificent temple in front of us. Venerable Buddhist monks and venerable Supreme Patriarch, you could enter the monkhood only in 1979. It was thanks to the former temple boy that we all have temples and monasteries. I am much better than those who look down on me and who [words indistinct] when there were no temples and monasteries. Many of those who in their propaganda campaigns attacked me as a temple boy now profess to be members of a Buddhist Liberal Party.

I have always told my colleagues not to get mad or whine when they are called temple boys. They should accept it as an accolade, for the temple boy appellation in our country is very important. Why? It is important because when there were no temples or monks, we were able to see to it that there are now temples and monks. Don't you see that the temple boy certificate is a high diploma because it has made temples and monasteries a reality. Therefore, those who have ridiculed Hun Sen and the temple boys should stop doing so because it is [words indistinct]. When they called us incompetent, they never looked at themselves. Their officials are worse: They are bandits, Khmer Rouge, and gamblers. And they have the gall to call us incompetent. I just cannot understand what they have wanted to say.

I would like assure you, Venerable and compatriots, that I really am incompetent if they want me to attack temples and turn them into fertilizer depots. I am incompetent if I have to arrest and murder Buddhist monks. I am incompetent if I have to knock down brickhouses for the iron scraps to be turned into nails, as happened in the Pol Pot era. I am incompetent if I have to force the people to live in hard-labor cooperatives and to eat and sleep in communal kitchens and communal houses. Whether I am competent or incompetent can be proved this way: when there were no temples, I built temples; I led in the construction of roads, schools, bridges, and hospitals. I can do all of that, not too brilliantly but doggedly like a turtle. We started from scratch, from nothing until now we have everything we see before us. The children who in the Pol Pot time were ordered to transport manure and to guard buffaloes now can go to school, from elementary to secondary and even university. The grandfathers and grandmothers who could not make merit in the past can now do so. All of this shows who is competent and who is incompetent. Being competent or incompetent does not rest merely in words but in deeds.

Of course, I am not boasting today. But I have as advisers many who have high diplomas like Mr. Keat Chhon, Mr. Chea Chanto, Mr. Sok An [words indistinct]. Some of them are doctors and engineers. Mr. Van Mulivan is also my adviser. Several former officials have come back not to set up parties but to help rebuild the nation. I just do not understand why they call us incompetent and also temple boys. No problem. Hun Sen accepts the temple boy certificate, for it is honorable. Do not forget, however, that if the Hun Sen recognized by the Cambodian people and the world as a person with an acceptable—I do not say a complete but acceptable—record of achievements is already ridiculed as being a temple boy, how then will the actual temple boys, nuns, and temple officials be treated? If Hun Sen is not spared, who will be? Therefore, temple officials, nuns, and students who live in monasteries to further their studies are invited not to mingle with that political party because it holds all of you in low esteem. All of you are objects of that party's contempt since it already has contempt for Hun Sen, a former temple boy.

I would like to further clarify the factors that have driven a wedge between the CPP and FUNCINPEC. There are many causes. One of them is the FUNCINPEC alliance with the Khmer Rouge. This is a glaring factor. They tried to hide it by burying their heads, but their rear ends stuck out in full view. The other is the ignoble and despicable terrorist acts in which they have killed their own people [words indistinct]. I cite one example to make it a matter of public knowledge. I have already informed UNTAC about it but UNTAC has not given it much attention. Let me publicly reveal it to the whole country. A person named At Sidan was killed in Baphnum on 4 November 1992. Mr. Son Sann lodged a complaint saying that he was his follower. In March, FUNCINPEC statistics showed that At Sidan was a FUNCINPEC member. Therefore, the same person At Sidan was claimed as a follower by both Mr. Son Sann and by the FUNCINPEC of Prince Ranariddh. Who was At Sidan? Who killed At Sidan? Did Mr. Son Sann kill him or did FUNCINPEC? The same man belonged to two different parties.

The FUNCINPEC party has infiltrated arms into Phnom Penh under the pretext of needing armed men as an honor guard to escort his highness [Sihanouk]. They brought into Phnom Penh 650 firearms together with ammunition whereas they had asked for authorization from us to bring in only 60 firearms without ammunition. They brought in 250 guns the first time, 200 more the second time, and another 200 the third time together with ammunition. What are these arms for? I never dreamt that Prince Ranariddh, his highness' son, was capable of such a despicable act.

Now, they are boasting that FUNCINPEC is a party of his highness. Let me put it bluntly: FUNCINPEC is an unscrupulous party and it is pursuing its policy blindly. It is the most unscrupulous. How? If you were man enough you would not use another man's name to win more votes for yourself. You should not drag down his highness, who is the father of the nation resting above all parties, and taint him with your own ignoble acts. You should not do that at all.

Allow me to recall parts of the history behind this. When the Paris conference was winding down, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk had already retired from FUNCINPEC. That was in August 1989. He washed his hands of it all and no longer remained as chairman of FUNCINPEC. However, his highness remained head of the tripartite coalition government. On 16 July 1991, in Beijing, following separate negotiations between his highness and me, his highness totally resigned as head of the tripartite government because he had to become chairman of the Supreme National Council, in a position above all political parties. He no longer was involved in any political parties or government. Naturally, when you control others, you stay above all else. When you are the father, you cannot be a son at the same time. This is the truth. The compatriots can ask his highness himself whether this is true. His highness signed to this in my presence on the night of the 16th. The draft declaration was made public on 17 July but it was accepted to his highness' satisfaction and signed by him on the 16th. What I want the public to know about my charge that FUNCINPEC is despicable concerns the event in New York. On 16 September 1991 I called on his highness when I arrived in New York to attend the UN General Assembly. I intended to inform his highness of the Paris agreement which was not yet signed at that time. I took that occasion to inform the prince that FUNCINPEC was still using his name and his picture to deceive the people. His highness said: No, Excellency, that is not right, because FUNCINPEC is not my party. Excellency, you should order your children at home to help in this matter, that is, ask your television, radio, and newspapers to carry my statement.

I then took leave of his highness and returned to my hotel. His highness immediately did what he said. He is a man of his word. He issued a statement that we publicized. However, on 16 July his highness signed the statement with his own hand and on 20 September 1991 I called on him again when he asked me: Did Your Excellency receive my statement? I said: No. His highness said: Excellency, I have already made that statement. My wife can be witness. His highness then looked for it for a moment, found it, and handed it to me. I then realized that a number of people wanted to hide this statement of his highness so that they could continue to use his name. For this reason, I drew the conclusion that this party is not honorable and that it is unscrupulous. If he is a man he is not a real man. If he were a real man he would have declared: I am the head of a political party and my political platform is as follows and so on.

The election law forbids the use of his highness' picture but that party continues to use it. The people now clearly see through it all. That party pledges that if it wins it will hand over power to his highness. That cannot be done. No, impossible, for the powers that his highness has been granted are those of a head of state and the powers of the head of government are granted by the electorate, the people and not the National Assembly. Even if FUNCINPEC wins, it cannot hand over power to his highness because it is the people who will vote to elect the head of state. Therefore, FUNCINPEC should stop going around deceiving people: They have already seen through its maneuver.

Now that it has run out of tricks, it starts talking about the father and son business. I would like to take this opportunity to make a little interpretation of the father and son business. [Words indistinct] and I believe that his highness himself would not object to such an interpretation. I am very understanding about the father and son business. The son cannot kill the father and vice versa. This is a fact. But watch out. The Khmer Rouge can kill both father and son. The problem is there.

Allow me to cite a historical experience that we should expose to the light, for no one can stop a politician from dealing with politics. Between the one who is being carried on a palanquin and the one who carries it, who is the most important? Of course, the passenger on the palanquin must be an important person. If the carrier is loyal, he is very important. However, if the carrier is not, then the carrier becomes more important than the passenger. Why? He may carry him up the boat, into the water, up the hill, or dump him off the palanquin. It is like this [words indistinct]. I cite two examples for the compatriots' information.

First, all of us know from history that HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk ascended the throne of Cambodia and became king of Cambodia from 1941 when he was only 19 years old. He led the country in the struggle against the French, which ended up with the Geneva agreement. There were elections in 1955. His highness then abdicated in favor of His Majesty Norodom Suramarit. His highness created the Sangkum Reas Niyum [Popular Socialist Party] to take part in the elections. From 1955 to 1960 his highness concurrently was chairman of Sangkum Reas Niyum and crown prince, a title given him by His Majesty King Suramarit. At times, his highness himself played the role of prime minister. In 1960 His Majesty King Norodom Suramarit died. The Constitution was amended by creating the post of head of state. His highness then became head of state as of 1960. From 1960 to the coup d'etat of 1970, his highness was both head of state and chairman of Sangkum Reas Niyum.

Who then toppled his highness? It was a member of Sangkum Reas Niyum whom his highness brought up and empowered with his own hands. His highness was toppled by his own man when he was visiting France and Russia, the former Soviet Union. After the coup d'etat when his highness was in exile, a number of his children were put in jail and the Queen Mother was under house arrest until 1973 when she was sent to Beijing.

This was an experience that all of us must be acquainted with. The father does not kill his children; the children do not kill their father; but they all are killed by someone else—in this case, Lon Nol.

Everybody knows that from 1970 to 1975 his highness was the head of the National United Front of Cambodia with Samdech Penn Nouth as prime minister. However, because of some historical quirks, his highness did not control all the forces inside the country. These internal forces—armed forces, security, and administrative—were under the control of the Polpotists. When his highness returned to the motherland, he was put in jail. Five of his children and 14 grandchildren were killed. Now in the FUNCINPEC Party the Khmer Rouge are in control from top to bottom. They are in total control. When FUNCINPEC wins, only Ranariddh will be alone at the top while the whole lower structure will be in the hands of the Khmer Rouge. This is why we need to repeat again and again the lessons of historical experience. This question is no laughing matter. I raise this issue so the people will not ever be duped again. This is not a small affair. If he alone is going to die, let him die. But we must not allow him to lead millions of people into death.

For this reason, I repeatedly stress that FUNCINPEC should stop going around deceiving the people and to stop conducting all these despicable acts of terrorism. I also take this opportunity to appeal to a number of parties that also have anti-Pol Pot policies to join hands to prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime and oppose the genocidal alliance. True, we are going to take part in the elections according to democratic principles. However, we must not forget that Pol Pot is not joining the elections; he is trying to torpedo them and seize power through military means.

Concerning what the CPP has achieved, allow me to inform you, venerable compatriots, that we have achieved a lot. As far as statistics are concerned, in the past 14 years how many schools, monasteries, hospitals, public and private amenities have been built? Not only have we been reborn, but we have revived virtually everything. What have the other parties achieved? Nothing. They have been able only to call us names, saying we are a bad lot, incompetent, hooligans, corrupt, and lackeys of the Yuon [Vietnamese].

Now, allow me to give additional information about our economic policy. The CPP has already formulated and enacted a policy that allows the peasants to own lands and the townspeople to own homes and have jobs. Do not forget, however, that if the CPP loses, the townspeople will be the first to pack up, for the houses will be taken back. This issue has already been spoken of everywhere. They have not yet won the elections but they have already made threats. They have said that if they win they will nullify all business contracts and take back their houses.

The FUNCINPEC party has gone as far as threatening to spare not even babies in cradles. They have not yet won and they dare make such threats. How much worse will it be if they win? And they claim to be democratic. They have not yet won and they have alreay threatened not to spare even babies in cradles. This threat was uttered by a prince, not by any low-level official. Believe it or not, a prince made such a threat. I am not going to name this prince. Actually, I do not know which prince said it, for there are too many princes in Cambodia at present. Too many princes. Some people who are not princes also claim to be princes. There are too many princes now. Anyway, it was a prince who said that if his party wins the Hun Sen faction will be uprooted to the point that even babies in cradles will not be spared.

What will happen after the elections? They are already very aggressive, even though they have not yet won. They have already threatened to end business contracts if they win. They have already started demanding money from hoteliers. They have said: If you do not pay now, when we win we will seize your hotel. They have gone this far. If they are this bad even before they win the elections, it is better not to vote for them altogether.

We do not know whom they will kill. In the Pol Pot era they said: To weed out grass, you should uproot it. They killed the fathers, then the children, then the brothers, and so on. That is the theory of weeding by uprooting. That was said by none other than the FUNCINPEC people, imitating their friends the Khmer Rouge.

They have also insulted us in all manner of ways. Let us talk about the Yuon. The problem between the Yuon and the Khmer—that is, between the Vietnamese and the Khmer—is not what they claim it to be. To put it straight, without the Vietnamese coming in to help us in 1979, all these gentlemen would not have been able to set up parties in Phnom Penh and their relatives would not have been alive in Cambodia: They would have been dead and their bones scattered or burried in the land. If you are not grateful, at least have the decency of not insulting them. The fact is that Phnom Penh asked the Vietnamese to help and, after they were of no more use, we asked them to go home.

As for the issue of Vietnamese settlers, it is not I who caused this problem. The issue of Vietnamese settlers has existed since the French era. During the time of his highness there were already more than 500,000 Vietnamese residents. The number now is only between 100,000 and 150,000. In the past, all the rubber plantations in Kratie and Kompong Cham were manned by Vietnamese workers, but now in Kompong Cham in 1992 there are only 128 Vietnamese families. How can you raise this as an issue? The problem of the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia has been known for decades, for centuries. It is not a recent issue. If you insult the Vietnamese, why don't you also insult the Chinese and the Thai? Hundreds of thousands of Thai have come into Cambodia and, knowing very well about this, you have not uttered a word.

Concerning the border issue, they are now making a campaign issue out of it. Here, allow me to clarify our border policy as well. They have been boasting in their propaganda that if FUNCINPEC wins, if Mr. Son Sann wins, Cambodian territory is not only going to stop shrinking, but it will also grow because they will take back Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory in southern Vietnam]. I said: Go ahead and try to wrest it back. I am not going to go along with them. No, I am not going along. You can say I am not a patriot but I am not going to go along. Neither am I going to ask for the return of Surin and a few other provinces now under Thai control. You can call me a nonpatriot for that. However, one thing bothers me about these superpatriots. When they were prime ministers in the past—that is, 30 years ago—why did they not take it back, why did they have to leave it to us of the new generations to do it? Mr. Son Sann is a former prime minister. When he was prime minister, why did he not attack Vietnam and wrest back Kampuchea Kraom? When he was still young, why did he not take it back? Why does he have to wait until he wins the election now before taking Kampuchea Kraom back?

Allow me to inform you that on the Cambodian-Thai border the CPP's policy is to implement the Franco-Siam Treaty of 1907 and The Hague International Court decision on Preah Vihear only. Let us not be too greedy as to try taking Surin back. I am afraid that if we are, we might not get Surin but moreover lose Siem Reap and Battambang. Do you think the Thai have no punches left to hit back with?

On the eastern border with Vietnam and Laos, we are going to respect the borderline left behind by the French according to the scale 1:100,000 map published by the Indochinese Geographic Group in 1954.

Allow me to openly dwell on this point a little more. We have been insulted for the past 14 years. I have been accused of signing an agreement that would portion off our territory and give it to Vietnam. They have insulted me without letup, without constraint. If I win the elections, I am going to appoint these people as my advisers. They are not going to be advisers in the same vein as Mr. Van Mulivan, Mr. Keat Chhon, Mr. Thao Pengleat, Mr. Sum Manit, Mr. Va Huot, and so on, who come from foreign countries, and Mr. Pan Thai, Mr. Uch Kim-an, and Mr. Im Sothi. They will be appointed adviser-experts in making insults, for they are best, top-notch in insulting people. They have never said anything good about other people. Their speciality is to insult. They insult us even though with their own eyes they have seen us build large schools, and they insult us although their own children go to the schools we have built. They are very good at making insults. Therefore, if I have to choose, I will choose them as my advisers in making insults. They are experts at making insults. They have insultingly charged that we have cut off much of our land and given it to Vietnam.

During the meeting in Siem Reap on 10 September, Prince Ranariddh, presenting a large map, said to his highness that FUNCINPEC wished to use the scale 1:50,000 map published by the U.S. Army in 1966. I said to myself: Cambodia will once again suffer more losses. Why? The scale 1:50,000 map published in 1966 by the U.S. Army when it was in control of South Vietnam was drawn up based on a copy of the 1954 map. Usually, a slip as large as a pen's tip on a map will be magnified by dozens of meters on the ground. It was because of this that before 1970 when the U.S. bombed Anlung Kreh, Tralaok Bek, and Chantrea, the U.S. claimed it was bombing Vietnamese territory, not Cambodian territory, as it was in hot pursuit of the Viet Cong along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. After insulting us for years, during the SNC meeting a few months back they reverted to approving the map I had used to sign an agreement with Vietnam—that is, the scale 1:100,000 map published by the Indochinese Geographic Group in 1954.

Now let's take a look at it. The Saigon administration attacked and captured Kaoh Wai and Kaoh Tang in 1972. The Lon Nol regime, to which a number of these present party leaders belonged, could not do anything at all. I negotiated with Vietnam, and Kaoh Wai is now a Cambodian island and we are exploring for petroleum there. Yet they have insulted us. If you used the 1966 map, you surely would have handed Kaoh Wai to Vietnam. As for us, we cannot do that. Now that we have agreed with one another on the map, what else remains difficult to settle? Everything is drawn on the map. See whether the border stones are at the right places. If they are not, put them in the right places. That is all. Stop arbitrarily accusing others. Mr. Son Sann, Prince Ranariddh, and some others have charged that Vietnam has moved the border back dozens of kilometers inside Cambodian territory. If that were the case, we would have lost National Route 1, the administrative seat of Kampot Province, and the seats of a number of other provinces. You have eyes, why don't you go and look. Stop making arbitrary charges against others just to win votes.

This is why I ask your permission to make a public clarification here so they will stop fooling people. And if they want to go attack and take back Kampuchea Kraom, go ahead. But beware of losing mainland Cambodia, as in the time of Pol Pot. My policy, the policy of our party, is to defend only the territory that His Majesty King Norodom called on France to help protect against annexation by Vietnam and Thailand. And this is also a policy of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk. His highness does not demand the return of Kampuchea Kraom. He does not demand the return of Surin Province. He demands sovereignty only over the border already recognized before 1970. Therefore, our policy on the border issue is not different from that of His Highness.

Anyone who wants to go to war with Thailand and Vietnam in order to seize historical territory in a few provinces in Thailand and Vietnam is a war criminal. Kuwait was separated from Iraq just some 30-40 years ago, but when Iraq tried to reincorporate it, the allied forces attacked Iraq to liberate Kuwait. And in our case, the separation is already centuries old. How can we possibly do this? Even if you call me a nonpatriot, I am not angry for I cannot do it. Why didn't Mr. Son Sann, who is a former prime minister, attack and take the territory back when he was prime minister?

Therefore, except for things that I cannot do such as knocking down brickhouses for iron scraps to make nails, disrobing monks, killing monks, destroying temples, and so on, the CPP has already done many things that the compatriots throughout the country can see with their own eyes. The CPP built schools when there were no schools; it built temples when there were none; it made it possible for people to make merit again and to own bikes, motorcycles, and cyclos [Cambodian pedicab in which the operator sits behind the passengers]. Still, our adversaries are not satisfied. When we rode horse carts they said we were very poor. When we now drive automobiles, they say we are too liberal, too rich. We can never be right.

During a recent meeting, Prince Ranariddh walked out. I do not know the cause of his walkout. Maybe it was because I refused to allow him to bring in an aircraft. He has yet to win and he already wants to buy a plane while his FUNCINPEC members are in debt left and right. Almost everybody in the FUNCINPEC office owes money to the noodle vendor. They still owe for rent and cannot get 200-300 dollars to pay for it. And while this is going on, he is mobilizing all the funds to buy a plane. He asked me for permission to land. I refused. He brought in 63 cars without paying any tax. The cars have been smuggled in clandestinely. And to say that he is not yet in power. How far will he go after he wields power? Maybe he will build palaces. Maybe he will find money to build these palaces. And he accuses Phnom Penh of being corrupt. He comes to Phnom Penh and drives all those cars. Does he want us, the people of Phnom Penh, to ride only in horse carts? If we were to ride in horse carts, we would be accused of being stupid and incapable of managing the economy. When we ride bikes, motorcycles, cyclos, or cars, we are accused of being corrupt.

I just do not understand it. To tell you the truth, I am dumbstruck. When we ran factories by ourselves and controlled them ourselves, we were accused of being communists. When we liberalized them, we were accused of selling off state property. How can you liberalize the economy without allowing it to go private? No way. For example, there is a cement factory in Kampot Province. It has already been inspected by four state companies. All refused to run it after close inspection. The workers received no pay in the meantime. Oknha Suos Srun invested here and brought in dozens of Chinese specialists to run the plant. Even before production, he paid wages to the workers, the lowest-paid of whom earn 35 dollars per month. Is it not good when workers are paid? We should worry about our own faults and not other men's faults. The state now gets the needed capital; what else do you want when the state does not have the necessary dozens of millions of dollars to feed the plant?

They now accuse us of being communist, charging that Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen are all communists. We ask them: What is communism, for we do not know communist theory. They surely are going to answer that communism means communal labor, communal kitchens, absence of currency, absence of markets, and absence of monasteries. We ask them back: What are the Cambodians doing nowadays? Do we have money? We have turned a no-currency state into a fully-circulated-currency state. It is you who have demanded that we stop spending money. In Phnom Penh, people use money and have markets. We are free and practice liberalization. If we ask them what is liberalization, they surely will answer that liberalization means private enterpises, individual kitchens, the presence of schools, circulation of money, presence of markets, and religious freedom. We can ask back: Do Cambodians have all of that now? Just stop preaching.

When I visited some foreign countries people applauded me for doing so so we could have movies as in the prewar period. I told them that we now have not just movies, but even videos. We are liberal, too liberal perhaps. Some of the video parlors have to be closed because of a degree of anarchy. What is anarchy? Gambling is one of its manifestations. I spent a certain length of time abroad and when I returned I discovered that lottery drawings were being shown on television. There was the Lotto, Big Fortune Lottery, and so on. Before we could do anything it was already a rage. Interior Minister Sar Kheng was asked to end the contracts. There were all sorts of hazardous games. Some elders cautioned that it was excessive. That is one kind of excessive freedom. There is another kind. Parties incited for freedom. A number of their members were instigated into grabbing school grounds and public lands to build houses. This is excessive freedom. When the authorities intervened, they fomented riots.

It seems that you are free to make insults. For example, you call me a one-eyed Jack. You seem to relish insulting people. You want only to win. If you really want to win you should not resort only to insults. Why don't you start doing something substantial, like building temples, schools, and bridges and distributing gifts to the people? You want their votes and you strangle the voters. You won't get any votes from them.

Let me cite an example. Recently you would have received aid in fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, and farm tools. Who will benefit most from these things? The people who tend the land. If you want to help the people and win votes, you should get the aid.

You said you want to see the teachers get their pay and have better living conditions so they can teach the students. You should allow the aid to come so it will support the buddget for education, so equipment can be purchased for the schools. But you do not do that. You block the aid. Not only do you block aid, you weaken the riel, destroy the marketplace, and cause confusion.

A few weeks ago they tried to cause confusion. Fortunately our people did not go along.

So, you cannot get votes in this way. On the contrary, it is now starting to boomerang. The people are beginning to curse the parties. The government is trying hard to maintain the value of the currency while the Khmer Rouge, FUNCINPEC, and Son Sann are trying to depreciate it. For example, in the past our 100,000 riel could get 1 chi [3.75 grams] of gold. Now, it is 200,000 riel to one chi. Are we indignant? We must not feel indignant at the CPP or Hun Sen. If we feel indignant we must curse Khieu Samphan, Son Sann, and Prince Ranariddh because they are sabotaging the property of the people. We used to spend 1,000 riel on a bowl of noodles; now we need 2,000 riel to get the same thing. Who is responsible? Ranariddh, Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge are. We must not attack the CPP, for the CPP is working hard to maintain the value of our money. We worked so that people could spend a little money to get a lot of goods in return, but now a lot of money gets only a few goods.

I talked of a number of issues the other day. The CPP has many duties, many historic missions to carry out. However, the CPP cannot achieve much without the people's support. Therefore, now what is vital for the CPP of Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen is the votes of the people, because the ballots will enable the party to prevent Pol Pot's return, preserve our people's legitimate ownership of property that they have built up over 14 years, and lead the country toward prosperity. This is because we are fully qualified to do so. Of course, there still will be some remnants of war, but it will be a war between the legitimate government and the rebels. So in this situation the CPP needs the participation of the people. In the past you already participated so that I, the CPP, and the SoC Government could work to prevent Pol Pot's return while building the country and undertaking peace negotiations. Today, this need still prevails. However, it is not overwhelming. What we need is only your ballots. If the CPP loses the elections, I will not be able to protect Vihear Suor temple. I cannot help if they knock it down again, if they blow up the Preah Kanlong bridge, if they destroy the schools, and if they march the people off to the execution ground. I will no longer have any political power, any army, any police, and any civil administration to help you.

If we win, we will carry on. I dare not make too many promises. But do not forget that in just 14 years we have arrived at this point from scratch. What we need from each of you is one ballot and that one ballot will be for yourself and no one else. This is because it is the CPP that has liberated the people from the genocidal regime, blocked the regime's return, and revived the nation. The CPP wants to win the elections in order to further protect the people's lives, property, occupations, and freedom.

A number of compatriots, especially the people of Khsach Kandal, have insistently asked where Mr. Hun Sen, Mr. Chea Sim, and Mr. Heng Samrin will stand for election. They have said they want me to run here so they can vote for me. Let me tell you who will vote for the CPP with this logo featuring an angel: Mr. Heng Samrin, Mr. Chea Sim, and I will be elected. Suppose you are to choose among the three of us, Mr. Heng Samrin, Mr. Chea Sim, and Mr. Hun Sen in order to vote; just do not worry. What you need to do is vote for the angel's picture of the CPP and all three of us will be elected, even if I am not running here.

These are some of my views summarily told because of the growing heat from the sun. Yet many of you are still listening to me. What I have to say in conclusion is to caution you not to empty the jar in earnest just because you hear thunder. It is not sure yet that there will be rain. You are given only one ballot, not two, to cast. You have only one chance. Do not empty the water from the jar yet. If it did not rain you would not have anything left.

During the Lon Nol time, you were told by Lon Nol to help him depose His Highness and he would work wonders for your lives. You experienced nothing marvelous. The Khmer Rouge asked you to help topple Lon Nol and they would do good to you, but you got only bad things. We have built ourselves for years. Although we have not achieved perfection, we have a regime that has made it possible for us to live and grow.

Let me add a little more. In Battambang an old man asked his fellow villagers: What made us better off? The villagers answered in unison: We helped ourselves. This answer is correct. The government or the party cannot put the money in all the people's pockets. Ours is not like other parties. Some parties have promised to give 300 dollars a head. But I think you would have to wait until the next life before you would see that 300 dollars.

Of course, your efforts get some assistance from the state, such as the building of schools, bridges, monasteries or the supply of seeds and pesticides. Another type of assistance from the state is suspension of the land tax for 15 years. From 1979 to 1984 we did not collect land tax. From 1984 to 1988 we collected some. From 1988 to 1993 we did not collect, and if we win the elections we will suspend the collection of land tax for 15 years. This is like giving money directly back to you. The tax for one hectare of land is 1 chi or the equivalent in annual tax to the state. The state will not take that 1 chi from the people. We let you save it to buy bicycles for your children or cattle to breed. This means that the state also helps.

But the most important thing is that we make our own efforts in order to get what we have now. So, the villagers answered that we become better off thanks to our own efforts. The old man retorted: How come we were so hungry under Pol Pot when we also made so much effort? This is very important. In the Pol Pot time people did make an effort, but they were starved. The greater the effort they made, the less rice gruel they got to eat. The problem is in the political framework of a party: whether or not it permits development. Our party has already actually experimented with this. We do not just make empty speeches.

For this reason I said: When you hear the thunder do not hurry to empty the water in the jar. If you boil the existing water, you can use it still.

You know them as well as their thinking. They are not going to flee abroad, in whatever situation. We are unlike a certain person who has a plane ready for him to flee in. He even has two passports, one French and another Cambodian and the Cambodian passport is even [words indistinct].

I just learned a portion of a poem I got from Kampot Province. I would like to dedicate it to all compatriots throughout the country as well as in Khsach Kandal. It goes like this:

A flock of birds flies in position; a big tiger hides in the wood; the birds take refuge in a big tree to avoid the hot sun.

A school of fish swims in a pond; a blind tiger should not be mistaken as tame; he does not hide his claws.

The people in Phnom Penh now can see how this tiger is, how good, how bad he is. They can teach him or beat him, he is not fleeing anywhere. But the blind tiger with his claws must not be underestimated.

There is another poem, this one, which is Chinese in origin. It goes like this:

The branches break, the leaves fall, the trunk withers.

This parable is important. We are like a tree whose trunk needs the branches and leaves, while the leaves need the branches and the trunk. It is like the party which needs the support of the people in order to make the country prosperous.

I end this speech with a prayer to the holiness of the Vihear Suor Buddha image to save the compatriots in Khsach Kandal District, as well as all faithful who have come to pay their respects to this temple. I take this opportunity to wish all of you the best in the new year. Thank you.

Laos

Party Delegation Receives CPC Cadres' Delegation

BK1204161193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The delegation of the Office of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] led by Comrade Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, member of the Party Central Committee and head of the Office of the Party Central Committee, and the cadres' delegation of the Communist Party of China Central Committee led by Comrade Wang Weicheng, member of the CPC Central Committee and director of its Policy Research Office, met and exchanged views and experiences in Vientiane on the afternoon of 11 April. The meeting between the two delegations proceeded in an atmosphere of intimacy and sincerity. They informed each other of the current situations in their respective countries and exchanged views on various policies, such as in socioeconomic development, the work of the party and cadres, as well as other work that both sides are interested in.

The CPC cadres' delegation arrived in Vientiane on the morning of 11 April on a four-day official visit to Laos. During the visit, the Chinese delegation will meet and join in activities with Lao agencies concerned and visit a number of production and cultural establishments in Vientiane Municipality and Vientiane Province.

President Conveys New Year Greetings to Nation

BK1304051893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[New Year's speech by President Nouhak Phoumsavan—recorded; date not given]

[Text] Beloved compatriots, time has continuously marched on. Now, the old year of Buddhist Era [B.E.] 2535 has passed and the new year of B.E. 2536—the Year of the Cock—has come to replace it. According to our fine traditions, the celebration of the traditional New Year festival is regarded as a good occasion for our Lao people to review our conduct, activities, and achievements pursued or recorded in the past year. It is also regarded as a time to extend greetings and best wishes for happiness and success to each other.

On this auspicious occasion, I wish to convey to the fraternal people of all tribes and all strata cordial greetings and best wishes of happiness and long life. I wish all compatriots success in performing your respective tasks. On behalf of the party and state, I also would like to express praise and thanks to all compatriots—farmers, workers, monks or novices, cadres, state employees, soldiers, police, combatants, elderly people, pensioners, personages, students, intellectuals, youths, traders, businessmen, and people of all other professions—for unitedly and harmoniously promoting and expanding the rights of being owners of the country, upholding a patriotic spirit and a spirit of cherishing independence and self-mastery, overcoming various obstacles and difficulties, and actively and creatively contributing to the fulfillment of the common cause of the nation throughout the past year. As a result, the stability, tranquillity, and public security have been basically maintained throughout the country, the national economy has been progressively developed, the material and cultural life of the people has been improved, and the popular democratic system has been further perfected and strengthened, thus pushing the national restructuring cause to continually march forward and leading the nation to firmly advance toward the goal and destination as already chosen.

The new year of B.E. 2536 has come to us at the time when our party and state have endorsed the national socioeconomic development plan for the period from now until year 2000. In view of this, I would like to call on all fraternal people of all tribes and all strata, both at home and abroad, who have maintained the patriotic spirit and wished to see the country become prosperous and strong and to see the people enjoy plentiful life, to take an initiative in contributing to implementing and translating into reality the said development plan in order to build our most beloved fatherland into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country.

Let us celebrate the traditional New Year festival in vigilant and orderly manner and in a profoundly significant atmosphere full of mutual respects, affection, and joy. Once again, I wish each and every compatriot happiness and good health throughout the coming new year. May the new year of B.E. 2536 be a year of solidarity, affection, peace and tranquillity and a year of all successes for our the nation and people! I wish all compatriots good luck and glorious victory in the New Year.

Philippines

U.S. To Remove Country From Special 301 Watchlist

HK1204141093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The Philippines will be removed from the Special 301 priority watchlist of countries that violate intellectual property rights. Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro said U.S. Trade Representative Michael Kantor promised that the Philippines will be moved to the lowest priority list before 30 April. Kantor also said the Philippines will be removed from the watchlist completely if it undertakes additional steps to protect intellectual property rights. Intellectual property rights involve laws that protect the copyright of products such as printed books, audio and video tapes and computer software. Navarro added the U.S. move will mean faster development of the country's publishing and computer software technology and industries.

UNTAC Troops Face Gun-Smuggling Charges

HK1204124393 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] What awaits members of the Philippine National Police [PNP], who served with the United Nations Transitional Authority on Cambodia [UNTAC] contingent, after firearms were found in their baggage? Here's a report by Arlene de la Cruz:

[De La Cruz] Administrative and criminal cases may be filed against 89 policemen who were part of the United Nations peacekeeping force who arrived in the country last Friday [9 April]. The second batch of the Philippine contingent from Cambodia yielded 57 AK-47 and 30 M-16 rifles when they arrived on a C-130 plane.

Members of the second batch of the Philippine contingent admitted they owned the baggage, but denied these were smuggled guns.

[Begin recording of unidentified contingent member] These are souvenir items. That is what will come out of the investigation. Okay? [end recording]

The Internal Affairs Division and the Inspector General's Office will investigate the PNP contingent's administrative case. Before the policemen left for Cambodia, it was clarified to them that no individual authority or permit would be issued to anyone to bring in arms, except to legitimate gun dealers. The smuggling angle will be looked into by the Bureau of Customs.

The confiscated AK-47s were allegedly bought in Cambodia for only 60 U.S. dollars. If sold here, the guns could fetch at least 50,000 Philippine pesos each. The PNP contingent will be given a one-week vacation before the investigation begins.

Article Discusses Rebels' Peace Talks Demands

HK1204090593 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] When are peace talks with various rebel groups going to take off?

After so much hope raised in the middle of 1992, the peace process appeared to have grounded to a halt as the year entered its second quarter.

Formal talks with the right-wing Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Reform the Armed Forces Movement—RAM] were suspended on Jan. 29.

On the other hand, negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front [NDF] remain stalled at the exploratory level over the issues of venue and agenda. A contributing factor is the perceived rift among leaders of the communist movement.

Unless the government tries to be more accommodating, observers say, the peace process is not likely to get going soon because of new or insistent demands from both the Right and the Left.

Before agreeing to resume peace talks, the RAM is asking the government panel to give 50 of its members "safety and immunity passes," as well as authority for each of them to carry two firearms—one long and one short.

The NDF has no new demand but its former spokesman is pressing for the disbandment of the controversial Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit [CAFGU] to "improve the climate for peace negotiations."

Satur Ocampo, former NDF spokesman, said disbanding the 79,500-member CAFGU was crucial not only to holding peace talks but to the conclusion of any peace agreement.

The CAFGUs have been accused of many human-rights violations since 1988, the year after they were created.

Ocampo recalled that dismantling the CAFGUs was one of the measures proposed by NDF either as part of confidence-building by the government or as a step toward a truce agreement.

The RAM said the 50 members for whom it was asking passes included its negotiating panel, secretariat, speakers bureau, support staff and security force.

Among those covered by the proposal is RAM leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

The RAM wants the passes to be in effect for one month and to "guarantee the holder freedom from apprehension, searches and seizures, surveillance, molestation, harassment and questioning from all government law enforcement units and personnel and other government functionaries for all activities, acts and utterances in connection with the peace process."

With the RAM's elaborate new demands for security, it is not clear when talks between them and the government could resume.

In seeking security guarantees, the right-wing group cited "a number of hostile acts, (including) physical and technical surveillance and harassment, by mobile patrols of the Philippine National Police."

The "hostile acts," according to the group, included "interdiction (restraint) and searches upon persons and vehicles, unprovoked assault by gunfire upon the residence of a (RAM) member and unwarranted neighborhood investigations."

The RAM said these acts violated a preliminary peace agreement.

The government panel, headed by UP [University of the Philippines] Prof. Alfredo Tadiar, asked the RAM panel head, Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, to put their security proposals in writing.

Under the RAM proposal, its members with safety and immunity passes should be allowed to carry one short and one long firearm "during movements and the conduct of meetings and consultations in connection with the peace process."

It is not yet known how the government will take to the NDF's own proposal in light of a declaration by President Ramos in October 1992 that he had no plan to abolish the CAFGUs.

Mr Ramos made the statement after Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of the National Unification Commission, called the CAFGU "an anachronism to the ongoing peace process."

Ocampo said the NDF, particularly the New People's Army, "is bitterly opposed to the formation, maintenance and operation" of the CAFGU because the latter was an instrument of abuse and a cause of discontent in the rural areas.

A recent report from the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates said it had documented 533 rights violations by militiamen from 1988 up to February this year.

It listed 3,146 people who had suffered abuses like illegal arrest and detention, harassment, physical assault, robbery, destruction of property, rape, salvage, torture, massacre and burning of their bodies in front of their families.

Drive Against NPA Focuses on Northeast Mindanao

HK1304150793 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] Northeast Mindanao is now the center of Operation Trap-Net III of the military. General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, said Operation Trap-Net III will sweep the remnants of the New People's Army [NPA] from the mountains. The provinces affected are Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur and Davao complex. The military believes that these areas are the only ones that have NPA strongholds. The second target of Trap-Net III is the Cordilleras [in North Luzon] and the Bicol region [in South Luzon].

Thailand

UN Secretary General Views Cambodia, SRV Visits

BK1304150993 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali yesterday left Thailand for Rome, Italy. Before his departure, he told newsmen that he visited Cambodia to observe preparations for the elections and to meet Cambodian leaders. He also met Vietnamese leaders during a visit to Vietnam. He was pleased with Vietnam's new policy. He said Vietnam and Thailand have an important role to play in forging regional cooperation.

The UN secretary general said he met Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, who assured him of cooperation with the United Nations both prior to and after the 23-27 May election in Cambodia. He expressed the hope that the election would help solve the present problems in Cambodia. Mr. Butrus-Ghali pledged that the United Nations will provide aid to Vietnam. Late this year the United Nations Development Program, or UNDP, will hold a conference to mobilize efforts to help Vietnam's rehabilitation. The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, or UNTAC, will also do its best to provide protection for the Vietnamese [word indistinct] in Cambodia.

Chuan Confident of Government's Stability

BK1204024493 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai reiterated his confidence in the stability of his government saying that there is nothing to make him doubt this.

He said that it was not possible to make the stability of a coalition government as solid as that of a single party government but there was nothing at the moment that made him think that the stability of his administration was any less secure than it had been before.

Asked about Chat Phatthana Party leader Gen Chatchai Chunhawan's criticism that investment in Thailand had dropped because of the instability of the Government, Mr Chuan said investment had been down for several years now but it was getting better. The Government also wanted the stock market situation to improve quickly but the Finance Minister was implementing steps that would bear fruit in the long term with the aim to improve market discipline.

Asked about a possible push by the Opposition to make Gen Chatchai prime minister in his place, Mr Chuan said that there was nothing to forbid this. "The political situation in the past has always been hot, never cool," he added.

Asked about the Opposition intention to buy airtime on television Channel 9 and stage a debate outside of Parliament, Mr Chuan said that there was no problem with this and it was an internal matter of the Mass Communications Organisation of Thailand. The Government had no policy on the matter, he added.

Editorial: Opposition Should Follow 'Rules'

BK1304031593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Opposition must play a more positive role"]

[Text] At first glance, the protest last week in Suphan Buri by some 500 farmers, reportedly spearheaded by the provincial agricultural cooperatives, looked like any other protest legitimately held by people in distress and in need of help. Except for a handful of entertainers hired to keep spirits up, the participants were genuine and typical farmers—the kind who are perennially poor, overburdened with debts and almost always victims of exploitation by traders, middlemen, moneylenders, landlords and even their own electoral representatives.

Yet, there was something unusual about this particular protest in Suphan Buri which seemed to suggest that the gathering of the "disgruntled" farmers was not spontaneous, but was stage-set for ulterior political motives. Instead of speaking out against unfair prices for their second-crop paddy which should have been the main theme of the rally, the protest leaders concentrated on hurling verbal attacks at the Government. Several protesting farmers who were apparently hired to join the protest reportedly admitted that they had already sold out their second-crop paddy. Others said they did not engage in any second-crop cultivation at all.

Some of the recent protests took place in the provinces where some opposition parties have firm political strongholds, for instance the pineapple growers' protest in March in Prachuap Khiri Khan and the rally over the controversial khor chor kor land resettlement programme in Udon Thani. There was also the protest against the land reform scheme in Chanthaburi as well as last week's protest in Suphan Buri which has long been the turf of the Chat Thai Party. The frequency of protests in those provinces dominated by the opposition has posed a big question mark over whether the incidents were purely coincidental or intentional to destabilise the Government.

The main task of the Opposition is to monitor the performance of the Government as a check-and-balance mechanism. In so doing, it must observe rules and traditions. The Opposition, too, should be responsive to the needs and political aspirations of the people and speak out on their behalf, especially for the oppressed and underprivileged. Bearing in mind these roles, it is an act of responsibility for an MP, either of the opposition or government bloc, to give moral or any other form of legitimate support to protesters who are acting in good faith and in compliance with the law. As such, it is normal to see MPs mingling with demonstrators as was the case with Banhan Sinlapa-acha and Praphat Phosuthon who were seen at the site of last week's protest in Suphan Buri giving "moral support" to the farmers.

What is unacceptable and also deplorable is the total lack of political spirit and social responsibility and lack of understanding of the Opposition's role displayed by some of their politicians. They tend to believe that the Opposition's role is to oppose the Government on every single project and to do everything it can to destabilise or overthrow it so that it could seize the helm in running the country.

The Government may not have achieved anything particularly significant in the past six months. It may not score any better achievements in the months to come if the coalition partners still preoccupy themselves with squabbling with one another as they do at present. But this does not justify the Opposition resorting to non-parliamentary means to undermine the Government in a way that will hurt the people and affect the country's economy.

The Opposition can win more popular support if it plays according to the rules and proves that it is more responsible and responsive to the public as well as being more efficient than the coalition administration currently in office.

Paper Views Chatchai's 'Smooth' Political Role

BK1104031493 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 11 Apr 93 p 24

[Text] Outspoken veteran politician Chaloem Yubamrung once commented that if former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan has returned to the political arena just to be a simple member of Parliament, then he may as well stay at home and look after his grandchildren.

In a book "A Life Tainted by Coups" distributed on the occasion of his 73rd birthday anniversary, Gen Chatchai spoke of the ups and downs of his life which resulted in his having to leave Thailand on two occasions because of coups d'etat. He said his biggest mistake as a prime minister was in believing that the military would not stage another coup. "I dare not think so any more," he added.

His return to politics after being toppled by the National Peace-keeping Council came with the establishment of the Chat Phatthana Party and his standing for election on September 13, 1992. "A man like Gen Chatchai will never leave the arena without first proving himself," said the veteran politician.

The saying that there is no true friend or permanent enemy in politics is proven once again when Gen Chatchai's return was met with wholehearted welcome by businessmen who hoped that he would once again establish a strong and stable national economy. On his return, Gen Chatchai has emphasised his campaign to transform the battlefield into a market place.

Much publicity was given to Gen Chatchai's visit to Japan before the general elections and was seen as farsightedness on his part. He said that the object of the visit was to convince the Japanese to help finance a second bridge across the Mekong River. He reasoned that Japan is a major trading partner of the region and any project realised would have a strong effect on the common economic picture of the region. The Indochina Development Fund was thus established to act as an insurance for investors in Indochina.

The political condition after the general elections in the aftermath of the Black May incident propelled the four "democratic" political parties together to become a coalition government under the leadership of the Democrats' Chuan Likphai. This significantly altered the political path of the Chat Phatthana Party. Both Chat Phatthana and Chat Thai parties suddenly found themselves in the opposition in spite of speculations that the two parties had been planning to come together after the elections to form the core of a government.

Being in the opposition has not detered Gen Chatchai from continuing his work. He travelled to the Indochina countries such as Laos and Vietnam to further his plans for exchanges in trade and investment and to build up bargaining power which can be used against the United States, the European Community and even Japan itself. His plans included the building up of a road network in the region, tourism and investment.

Gen Chatchai's high profile in international affairs has dented the performance of the current foreign minister. The latest was a trip to China which he insisted was in the name of the Sino-Thai Friendship Association and was non-political.

He added that Thailand is losing out on foreign investment to neighbours such as Singapore and Malaysia "because investors have no confidence in the stability of the Government" and said that he would travel to ASEAN countries to rebuild the Thai image in the eyes of foreigners.

The political role of both Gen Chatchai and the Chat Phatthana Party has been to concentrate on presenting ideas on the administration of the country, with emphasis on the economy and investment. Key national problems are also raised, with proposed solutions. Seminars are arranged in all regions where problems are again raised and solutions proposed so that "if Chat Phatthana becomes the government, these solutions would be implemented."

Gen Chatchai's role so far has been smooth, resorting to criticisms rather than a full frontal assault on the Government. He repeatedly demonstrated his "democratic principle" by saying that "we have to help nurture a government which came into being through the democratic process" although some observers have suggested that his mellow approach may have been because he still had the unusual wealth stigma hanging over him.

He has stood by his position that economy must lead politics and insisted that if he leads the country, his major aim would be to turn Thailand into the Fifth Tiger of Asia.

Sources also mentioned a number of behind-the-scene developments in politics. These included the alleged movement in the Chat Thai Party to bring in ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin as party leader, or to replace Gen Praman Adireksan with party secretary-general Banhan Sinlapa-acha, or an alleged meeting between a number of army commanders and Gen Chatchai, or the verbal battle between Premier Chuan and Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit. Observers have said that it is difficult to imagine Gen Chatchai not having knowledge of these incidents.

With the ruling of the Supreme Court abolishing the NPKC's [National Peace-Keeping Council's] Decree No. 26, politicians who had had their assets seized are now being gradually cleared. It is likely that once Gen Chatchai himself is cleared, it will herald a new era in his return to politics.

Gen Chatchai has also been playing the role of a national uniter and compromiser, calling for unity in the country. He has announced that "I have never thought of suing anyone (over the seizure of his assets by the NPKC). Everything ends here. I think of tomorrow, not yesterday." He also called on former NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to return to help the country; those close to Gen Sunthon have said that Gen Sunthon himself knew nothing about the call.

Asked about his possible return to the helm of the country, Gen Chatchai replied that "I have already been there. I do everything according to the rules. I can be anything. If I can help the country I will immediately do so. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The meaning of doing things according to the rules may soon be put to the test, particularly at a time when the Government is facing several problems such as a lack of solidarity, a growing lack of confidence from the public, a shortage of positive results, a leadership struggle, pressure from non-government organisations and growing pressure from the Opposition.

The Government does not have many options. They include abolishing Parliament or resigning. Gen Chatchai is unlikely to be interested in a Cabinet reshuffle to omit one or more coalition parties in favour of one or more opposition parties since the best way for his return to the power arena would be for a completely new start, with a completely new Cabinet.

It can be said that Prime Minister Chuan is facing a formidable competitor who has been playing his political games systematically and patiently all along.

Only time will tell what are the chances of Gen Chatchai's return to the political power arena, and it will not be long before we know.

BOI Reports Improved Investment Situation

BK1204082893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The Board of Investment, BOI, reports improvement of investment situation in Thailand in the first quarter of this year. Secretary General of BOI Sathaphon Kawitanon says 14 Thai and foreign investing parties have contacted the BOI and investors who delayed their contact last year because of political crisis have also returned this year. Even though the global economy has been in a recession, Mr. Sathaphon says investing in Thailand still earn high benefit. Mr. Sathaphon also says investors still have confidence in Thailand's economic stability. In the meantime, the government is accelerating the development of infrastructure and manpower which are still much needed in investment administration.

Paper Sees Rice Issue as Opening for Opposition

BK1304034393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Apr 93 p B1

[By Atchara Phongwutthitham]

[Text] The Chuan Government is likely to face a no-confidence debate during the coming parliamentary session scheduled in May due to the government's inability to halt the plunging price of second-crop rice.

The more the government tries to solve the problem, the less effective it seems to be. The government currently promises an additional Bt [baht] 300 for each tonne a farmer manages to sell, in return for a binding agreement that he/she will reduce his second-crop rice area by 20 per cent next year.

With such a promise, the government is entitled to pay a least Bt510 million from the farmer's assistance fund to drive up the price of second-crop rice nationwide, expected to total 1.7-1.9 million tonnes this year.

Besides the extra money given to farmers, a measure for the government to buy paddy from rice mills and keep in its stock is also being planned. This way, more space will be paved for rice mills' rice stock and the mills will be able to buy more second-crop rice for stock.

What the government is actively doing now is only giving out a subsidy which has not been able to effectively help the ailing sector much lately. Yet no one is ever certain whether the farmers will seriously commit themselves to the binding agreement to reduce their second-crop plantations by 20 per cent. Governments in the past have repeatedly learnt that the more the farmers are helped, the more actively they grow the unsaleable rice.

With the nagging problem of rice, analysts think the time is right for the opposition to strategically attack the government. Last week, Banhan Sinlapa-archa, Chat Thai Party's secretary-general and MP of Suphan Buri Province, one of the provinces producing a vast amount of second-crop rice, blamed the government for the unacceptably low price of second-crop rice this season.

The message from the opposition is the government is no good at solving the country's major economic problem: rice, which unavoidably affects the country's majority—the farmers.

However, to give everybody a fair chance, one can see the government is less lucky this year. First, the world's rice production is up. All rice producers have managed to increase their productions. Furthermore, those who never export rice have this year become exporters. As a result, those with lower cost of productions are far better off than countries with a higher production cost like Thailand.

Importers can negotiate for the price they hope for. Markets are no longer belong to sellers.

Meanwhile, the Thai government has taken a very cautious step by deciding not to dump prices with other countries. The result is obvious: stocks aren't rotating and the domestic situation is even worse.

The second reason is due to the uncoordinated way of Thai officials working to resolve the problem. Several agencies take care of the country's agricultural produce. Each thinks that his idea is far better than the others, forgetting that the nation's benefit is the best. They work amidst suspicion and mistrust of one another and therefore produce an unimpressive solution.

Businessman Views Japanese Investment Prospects

BK1304013793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 93 p 13

[Text] Thailand's effort to invest more in infrastructure will encourage Japanese firms to expand investment here as the yen keeps appreciating.

However, Thailand should be prepared to see a widening trade imbalance with Japan as the country continues to import capital goods and luxury products with rising prices.

Katsumi Ogawa, executive director and general manager of Mitsui & Co (Thailand), the largest Japanese business group operating in Thailand, told BUSINESS POST that the appreciation of the Japanese yen was likely to bring changes in trade relations between the two countries.

Imports from Japan rose sharply in the first two months of this year and are likely to continue to rise due to demand for capital goods and others in the Thai market.

Mr Ogawa said the trade deficit of Thailand with Japan would be larger in the next five years because Thailand still imports many products such as heavy duty machines, automobiles, computers and software from Japan but Thailand only exports basic products which earn little money.

The present exchange rate is 112.85-113 yen for one dollar, while in February the exchange rate was 125 yen for a dollar, showing appreciation of 10 percent.

So, if the other countries order any products from Japan, it means they must pay quite a lot of money to Japan, and it may cause those countries to reduce import from Japan.

More than 115 Japanese companies operate in Thailand and in the near future, Mr Ogawa said, the number should increase because Thailand offers good transportation, communications, electricity, water as well as a market for producers.

The Japanese factories that operate in Thailand are involved in electrical supplies, automobile assembly, software and computers.

In addition, some products are made in Thailand but manufacturers import important parts from Japan. If the price of those parts are high, it may effect Thai importers and finally the price of those products, because production costs are high.

Factories which produce trucks and buses may be affected quite a lot.

The baht seems not too weak when compared to the yen, but the US dollar seems weak because the United States has a huge deficit. He said the US will have serious problems in trade with Japan in the future.

However, the Japanese Government has tried very hard to avoid this by sending Japanese investors to invest all over the world and by donating to poorer nations. Sometimes, the Japanese Government helps through soft loans to other countries.

He said Thai manufacturers could survive because they can adjust production style and diversify production to increase competitiveness.

For example, the canned fruit industry has diversified to other value-added products, such as juices and jams.

For the near future, many Thai manufacturers will employ high technology like in newly-industrialised countries.

He said Thailand's imports of capital goods from Japan will be good for the country1 but can be a big disadvantage if luxury goods such as cars, television sets, computers and stereos are imported.

He said that in 1986, a lot of Japanese investors came to Thailand because in Japan at that time the cost of production was very high.

Thailand at that time provided resources, cheap labour and easy access to the US market under Thailand's Generalised System of Preferences privileges.

Before 1986, businesses were mainly involved in agro-industry, garments and rubber products. But after 1986, Thai manufacturing changed to export production, and Japanese investors started to play a key role.

He said the yen appreciation may help Thai exporters by allowing them to export to Japan more and gain more money from Japan.

About Indochina, he said Vietnam is emerging as a major competitor of Thailand, requiring Thailand to urgently improve its infrastructure.

Thailand should improve in many areas, such as high technology, communications and transport.

He also said traffic in Bangkok is horrible and asked the Government to do something before it is too late.

As for South China, more investors are flowing there, including Thai investors.

He said Thailand should invest in factories in that area because the fundamentals in South China are good.

Saudi Prince 'Satisfied' With Police Effort

BK1304010993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] The Interior Ministry committee examining the Police Department reports into the three Saudi cases will meet Saudi Arabian Prince Muhammad bin-Nawwab bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz today to present him with the results of the investigations.

The cases involved the murder of a Saudi diplomat in 1989 and three more in 1990, the theft of jewellery from Saudi Arabia by Thai worker Kriangkrai Techamong and the disappearance of a Saudi businessman here.

The cases have become an obstacle in the improvement of relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday had lunch with the prince.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said he had informed the prince that this Government had just taken office and intended to solve the cases right from the beginning.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said the Government had tried to solve the cases in a straightforward manner, showing black as black and white as white.

He said he told the prince yesterday the cases had remained unsolved for over three years by previous governments.

The prince was satisfied with the Government's sincerity in trying to solve the cases and was happy up to a point with the work by Thai authorities.

Sqn Ldr Prasong quoted the prince as saying previous governments, unlike the present Government, had been careless and had not made any progress in investigating the crimes.

He also said the theft of jewellery from Prince Faysal's palace was not discussed in any detail.

The Foreign Minister said he told the prince both Saudi Arabia and Thailand respected and honoured royal families and "the people would feel the same if any irritation was caused to the royal families".

He said the solving of problems between the two countries was not meant to pave the way for Thai labourers to work in Saudi Arabia simply to strengthen relations between them.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said the two countries shared a similar geographical location, and Thailand could serve as a gateway for Saudi Arabia to enter Indochina while Thailand could use Saudi Arabia to gain access to the Middle East.

He said the two countries should have close trade links in the near future.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Interior Ministry committee, Deputy Permanent secretary Ari Wong-araya, said a team of Thai delegates led by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan would visit Saudi Arabia on a goodwill mission from April 22-28.

Mr Ari yesterday chaired a meeting of his committee attended by Police deputy chief Gen Chan Rattanatham, Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner Pol Maj-Gen [Police Major General] Sophon Waratchanon, Region 1 Provincial Police deputy commissioner Pol Maj-Gen Khet Nimsombun and Central Investigation Bureau deputy commissioner Pol Maj-Gen Rungrot Yamakakun.

He said the meeting was held to conclude the police reports on the three cases.

Mr Ari said Riyadh would be informed what had been done to try to solve the cases and what remained to be done.

He said the meeting yesterday was not meant to arrest anyone nor discuss ways of retrieving the jewellery.

NSC Chief Receives Israeli Secretary

BK1104085393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Thailand and Israel showed their intention to step up cooperation in the future. Permanent secretary for defense of Israel on Friday paid a courtesy call on Secretary General of the National Security Council, NSC, General Charan Kunlawanit for an exchange visit during his trip to this region. General Charan says the permanent secretary for defense of Israel is interested in establishing military cooperation with Thailand as well as cooperation on technology. Israel also shows its interest in joining forces with Thailand in the fight against world terrorism, according to General Charan.

Trade Official: 'No Common Ground' at Coffee Talks

BK1004024893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Apr 93 p B8

[By Atchara Phongwuttitham]

[Text] Another round of International Coffee Organization [ICO] meetings has bogged down once again after ICO members both exporting and importing countries, refused to come to the same ground, according to Sukhon Kanchanalai, director-general of Commerce Ministry's Business Economics Department.

Sukhon, leading Thai trade officials to the 62nd ICO meeting in London, told reporters after the trip that a major factor contributing to a collapse of the talks is the disagreement of both coffee importing and exporting countries on ways and time to implement the global quota to control coffee exports and stabilize the world's coffee price.

Talks on related issues were also terminated since the principle topics could not be resolved.

According to Sukhon, the meeting produced no settlements on procedures and time to change the Agreement of Continuity of the Selective System.

Coffee exporting countries want the new agreement to come out as soon as possible. Any changes can be done within 18 months after the agreement is completed.

On the other hand, the importing countries want the agreement to be as complete as possible, with no changes within its first three years, even though it means more talk now.

According to Sukhon, both sides during the meeting declined to take a softer stance. Coffee exporting countries even demanded importing countries to import coffee from ICO's member countries only. The practice hopes to eventually drive the coffee price up.

However, the demand is not in line with the importing countries' thinking. They want to import the coffee from both ICO members and non-members in order to increase their bargaining power in case the exporting countries demand too high a price of its coffee export.

Because of both sides' refusal to back down, other three important issues are also on hold.

Firstly, no discussion is being made yet on the amount of the aggregate quota aimed to be distributed among exporters. Initially, it was set at 3.72 million tonnes.

Secondly, exporters cannot yet decide on how to allocate quota among member countries. Each is now doing everything possible for the quota allocation.

Thirdly, no indicator price is fixed to Colombian Milds and other Milds, Brazilian, Arabica, and Robusta, varieties that Thailand mainly exports.

Concerning the country's current situation in coffee production and prices, Thailand recently found that Vietnam will soon become its major competitor in exporting coffee.

Vietnam has increased its coffee production to 120,000 tonnes, up from the 1992 production of only 76,080 tonnes. It has also begun to grow Arabica.

Vietnam

Reportage on Reaction to Document on U.S. POW's

Official Challenges Authenticity

BK1304070293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0652 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi, April 13 (AFP)—A Vietnamese official challenged Tuesday the authenticity of a document that indicates Hanoi was holding 837 more U.S. prisoners of war (POW) in 1972 than it officially acknowledged. He said an internal Vietnamese document giving the full number of POWs could never have gotten into Soviet archives, where this document was discovered by a Harvard University researcher in January.

"I think it's a false document," said the official. Despite the large number of Soviet military advisers in North Vietnam at the time, "We did not share our secrets with the Soviets." The official spoke on condition of anonymity, since the Vietnamese Government has not yet officially commented on the document. It is allegedly a secret report from a senior North Vietnamese general to the Communist Party Politburo saying that Hanoi was holding 1,205 POWs in 1972, when it officially admitted detaining only 368. Vietnam released 591 U.S. servicemen the following year under the 1973 Paris peace agreement.

"We never held that many prisoners," the Vietnamese official said of the 1,205 figure. "In 1973, we released all the prisoners who were alive."

The document will be "the first order of business" when U.S. presidential envoy John Vessey arrives in Hanoi this weekend on a fact-finding mission, a U.S. State Department spokesman said in Washington. The discovery of the document, turned over to Washington by Moscow last week, has derailed the accelerating process of normalization between Vietnam and Hanoi [as received], which is just what Hanoi thinks it was intended to do. "You could see it as a plot to throw a spoke in the wheels of normalization," the official said. "The situation is quite complicated in Russia now. Such a document could have been deliberately planted."

The official acknowleged that such a report could have been sent from the military command to the Politburo, but insisted that it could not have been acquired by the Soviets—even by the KGB. "The KGB may have been formidable elsewhere, but they were not formidable on internal Vietnamese matters," he said.

Spokesman Rejects 'Groundless' Report

OW1304111893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi, April 13 KYODO—Vietnam, denying a report by a U.S. newspaper, reiterated Tuesday it has not held any U.S. prisoner of war (POW) from the Vietnam war. A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said after the signing of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam in 1973, Hanoi returned to the United States "all the American POWs captured in Vietnam."

The spokesman was answering a question from foreign reporters in Hanoi on a NEW YORK TIMES report Monday [12 April] that a secret document found recently in Moscow reveals more than 700 U.S. POWs were kept in Vietnam after that year.

The official said the results of investigations jointly conducted by Vietnam and the U.S. into more than 70 reports show there is "no evidence of any American POW" still detained or living in Vietnam. He called the NEW YORK TIMES report "groundless" and said Vietnam totally rejects the "ill-intentioned fabrication."

The report came as hopes were rising for the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo against Vietnam in the near future. Former U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie visited Vietnam early this month and Retired Gen. John Vessey, a special envoy of former U.S. President George Bush on POWs and U.S. servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) during the war, is due to arrive next week.

Radio Views U.S. Envoy's Aims for Upcoming Visit

BK1304111693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The French news agency AFP reported that U.S. President Bill Clinton will send his emissary, the retired General John Vessey, to Hanoi to continue his mission on the settlement of the Americans missing in action in the Vietnam war. On this issue, our radio editor has this to say:

Retired Gen. John Vessey was appointed emissary by the Reagan administration in 1987 to settle the MIA issue. He continued his post through the Bush administration and now works for the Clinton administration. Gen. Vessey has come to Vietnam many times. It is reported that anytime he visited Hanoi he appreciated Vietnam's active efforts in the settlement of the MIA issue. Most recently, the U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, assessed that Hanoi was handling the issue well. So, it is hoped that Gen. Vessey will share this assessment of Vietnam's goodwill. The coming Vietnam visit by Gen. Vessey has another aim. It is to consider international loans to Hanoi for the upcoming meeting of the International Monetary Fund late this month. Washington could not stand alone on this issue. France has pledged it will ask the IMF to grant loans to Vietnam for its national reconstruction. The Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, and other countries also announced that at the IMF meeting they will express their goodwill to help Vietnam clear its $140 million debt for the IMF so that Vietnam is entitled to obtain new loans. It is now questioned that whether the United States can pull even further behind its allies regarding IMF activities in Vietnam.

U.S. Said Considering Lifting Loan Restriction

BK1204135093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The United States is considering withdrawing some restrictions on international loans to Vietnam by the consent of fact-finding missions in advance of any decisions. THE NEW YORK TIMES on Saturday wrote that the White House's targeted date for a new policy on the IMF toward Vietnam would likely be in April when the IMF meets and is expected to discuss the issue. France and Germany and Japan and some Asian countries are willing to help Vietnam pay off all its IMF debts. That allows it to qualify for new funds.

Hanoi Comments on Muskie Delegation Visit

BK0904141893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Senator Edmund Muskie, chairman of the Center for National Policy, left Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday after leading a 13-member delegation of Americans on a week-long visit to Vietnam. The American delegation included many well-known politicians, representatives of big oil companies, businessmen, banking, and veterans of the Vietnam war. The delegation was received by party leader Do Muoi, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, and representatives of other relevant agencies.

The delegation was briefed on the renovation process, domestic and foreign policies of Vietnam as well as its efforts to foster new relationship with America. The delegation appreciated Vietnam's contributions for the peace process in Cambodia and its cooperation in resolving the missing-in-action, or MIA, issue.

The delegation felt Vietnam's current process of renovation and its foreign policy has created conditions for Vietnam to integrate into the world community. These achievements proved Vietnam could play an important role in the maintenance of peace, security, stability, and cooperation in the region.

The American delegation said it was time to open a new chapter in relationships between the two countries despite some minor unavoidable problems left by the war. The best way to solve these problems, both sides felt, was to normalize their relations. The Vietnamese side said they shared this view and were prepared to do all they could to advance in that direction.

Relations between Vietnam and the U.S. have seen positive changes. The U.S. Administration has loosened its trade embargo against Vietnam. Some American companies have set up offices in Vietnam and a number of high-level delegations from both countries have met to discuss promotion of relations. In 1992 alone, some 90 American business delegations paid working visits to Vietnam. In March of this year, the Bank of America officially opened its branch office in Vietnam. However, the trade embargo still restricts American businessmen from doing business here. That is why the lifting of the American economic sanction against Vietnam remains a prevailing demand among American businessmen, politicians, and ordinary people.

Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said the U.S. trade embargo only hinders Americans from investing in this market, and French President Francois Mitterrand declared the embargo was outdated and the U.S. administration should lift it soon.

Americans in Hanoi Reportedly Urge End to U.S. Embargo

BK1204135693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Representatives of humanitarian, educational, and trade organizations and 30 Americans in Hanoi have sent a petition to U.S. President Bill Clinton, calling for an end to the embargo against Vietnam and for the normalization of relations between Vietnam and America. The petition said: Vietnamese people with whom the Americans daily work had played a part in the past war. [sentence as received] They look for a day when the U.S. and Vietnam can cooperate in peace.

Reportage, Commentary on UN Chief's Visit

Butrus-Ghali Arrives 11 April

BK1104105893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations Secretary General Butrus-Ghali arrived in Hanoi Sunday [11 April], starting his official visit to Vietnam. He was accompanied by secretary of the Committee of the Socioeconomy in Asia-the Pacific, representative of the United Nations Secretary [title as heard] Akashi, and others.

Meets Leading Officials

BK1104155393 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 11—Butrus Butrus-Ghali, secretary general of the United Nations, arrived here this afternoon for an official visit to Vietnam at the inviation of the Vietnamese Government. The UN secretary general and his party were welcomed by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Le Xuan Trinh, chief of the premier's office and others.

Also present were the ambassadors and charge d'affaires of many countries, representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and several international organizations in Hanoi.

At 14.30, the motorcade of the UN secretary general arrived at the presidential palace square. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet went up to the limousine and warmly shook hands with the UN chief who was later presented wih banquets of flowers from Hanoi girls.

After the welcoming cermony, Secretary General B. Ghali was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

The Vietnamese Government leader said the secretary general's visit would help strengthen the relations between Vietnam and the United Nations, and also contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and elsewhere in the world.

He wished the UN secretary general and his party a pleasant stay and fine success for their visit.

Talks With Nguyen Manh Cam

BK1204044893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] On 11 April, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam held talks with visiting UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in Hanoi. Attending the meeting on the Vietnamese side were Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and other high-ranking officials of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, and on the UN side, were His Excellency (Jeanier Parikan), deputy UN Secretary General and political adviser; His Excellency Rafeeuddin Ahmed, executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN Secretary General to Cambodia; Mr. (Roy Murray), representative of UNDP in Vietnam; Mr. (Rosen Taylor), specialist attached to the UN Secretary General's Office; and Mr. Ahmad Fawzi, spokesman of the UN Secretary General.

Both sides exchanged views on regional and international situations, including the Cambodian issue and the relations of cooperation and development between Vietnam and the United Nations.

Both sides unanimously contended that international conditions in the post-cold war period are favorable for the United Nations to play a greater role in maintaining peace, promoting international security, and accelerating development of nations. However, there are still new ordeals, especially the current racial and religious conflicts in various countries as well as the global issues which are seriously developing.

In this situation, both sides asserted the significance of cooperation between the United Nations, regional organizations, and UN member countries. Both sides contended that this cooperation will greatly contribute to the process of democratizing the international relations as well as UN system and activities.

Concerning the Cambodian issue, the UN Secretary General expressed his profound condolences to the Vietnamese government and people on the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. He denounced the policy of terrorism and racial cleansing. He asserted UN commitments in ensuring the implementation of the Paris Peace Accord in Cambodia. He asserted that the UN will do its best to ensure the general elections in Cambodia according to schedules.

SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam asserted that Vietnam will continue to support the implementation of the Paris Peace Accord on Cambodia, support the UN efforts in organizing general elections in Cambodia according to schedules and in building Cambodia into a peaceful and neutral country, thereby contributing to peace and stability in the region. The SRV foreign minister expressed concern over the Khmer Rouge violating the Paris Peace Accord, especially their massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam appealed to the United Nations, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and the State of Cambodia to take effective measures to protect and help Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on progress attained in the relations of cooperation between Vietnam and the United Nations, especially the effective implementation of UN assistance programs in Vietnam.

His Excellency the UN Secretary General highly appraised achievements scored by Vietnam in implementing its renovation undertaking. He asserted the UN commitments to continue to encourage various nations to help Vietnam rebuild its country.

In the evening of the same day, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam hosted a solemn banquet in honor of the visiting UN Secretary General.

Attending the function were representatives of the diplomatic corps, international organizations in Vietnam, and Vietnamese officials from various ministries and sectors.

Outcome of Visit Hailed

BK1204115893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has been in Hanoi on an official visit to Vietnam. The French News Agency AFP said that the visit is a manifestation of the UN support for Vietnam to join the international community.

Relations between this organization and Vietnam have developed greatly since Vietnam became a UN member, especially in recent years. Almost all UN organizations have funded Vietnam in many economic fields and in its national construction.

During his talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, the UN secretary general highly valued Vietnam's achievements in the present process of renovation. He said the UN will continue to support Vietnam and called on other countries to help Vietnam rebuild.

The UN leader also discussed the Cambodian issue with Vietnamese leaders. He expressed deep concern over the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. Mr. Butrus said the UN will do all it can to ensure the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. This committment needs to be carried out. A strict implementation of this, of course, will bring back stability, security, and happiness to the Cambodian people. This is also to fulfill the UN role in defending peace, security, and development in the world.

Premier, Secretary General Meet

BK1204135993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received and held cordial talks with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, who is now on a visit to Vietnam, at the presidential palace on the afternoon of 12 April.

The prime minister hailed and highly valued Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's visit to Vietnam as well as the outcome of the talks between his excellency the secretary general and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam in which there were identical views over many issues of mutual concern, including the need to further promote the cooperative relations and mutual understanding between Vietnam and the United Nations.

The prime minister noted with joy improvements in Vietnam-UN relations in the past. Through various development projects, the United Nations have contributed effectively to Vietnam's construction and development.

The prime minister availed himself of this occasion to express his gratitude to the United Nations in general and his excellency the secretary general in particular for the cooperation and assistance they have reserved for Vietnam. He affirmed: Vietnam will continue to cooperate with the United Nations in making effective use of the UN assistance through various development projects.

Touching on international and regional issues, the prime minister said: It is Vietnam's consistent policy to strictly implement all those clauses related to it in the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Vietnam will fully cooperate with the United Nations in enforcing this agreement so as to lead to a peaceful, independent, nonaligned, and neutral Cambodia that is friendly toward all nations.

Secretary General Butrus-Ghali thanked Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and relevant Vietnamese organs for having created favorable conditions for his working visit to Vietnam.

His excellency the secretary general hailed and highly valued the cooperation given by Vietnam to various UN organizations in implementing many development projects, as well as Vietnam's effective use of UN financial assistance under these projects.

His excellency the secretary general voiced his favorable views over the renovation policy of Vietnam and its dynamic diplomatic policy and said: The United Nations has reserved and is reserving for Vietnam the assistance it needs in its renovation process. This is the duty of the United Nations toward Vietnam, a developing country.

Dealing with international and regional issues, after pointing out fruitful achievements scored by the Cambodian people in their national construction as well as the difficulties now being experienced by them, his excellency the secretary general expressed the belief that in order to achieve the goal of building a peaceful, independent, nonaligned, and neutral Cambodia that is friendly to all nations, the Cambodian people must have determination. The United Nations cannot do anything on the Cambodian people's behalf if the latter do not have determination. Without the cooperation and assistance given by the Cambodian parties concerned, the United Nations cannot achieve cooperation and provide assistance to Cambodia.

His excellency the secretary general assured the prime minister that the United Nations would pay more attention to Vietnam, Cambodia, and other countries in the region. The peoples of Vietnam and other countries in the region deserve to enjoy prosperity and happiness because they have had to endure the severe consequences of decades of war.

Butrus-Ghali Addresses News Conference

BK1204161993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 Apr 93

[UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's "statement at an international news conference held in Hanoi on the afternoon of 12 April to announce the outcome of his visit to Vietnam"; recorded in English fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Text] This is my first visit to Vietnam since my appointment as UN secretary general. I am very happy to arrive here and see with my own eyes the beautiful and substantive indications of the profound advancements achieved by Vietnam under its national construction program.

I have had many copious, constructive, and very effective talks with the Vietnamese leaders—with his excellency the Vietnamese foreign minister yesterday and with his excellency the Vietnamese prime minister this morning. We spent a great deal of time in these talks reviewing the Cambodian situation. I told the Vietnamese leaders that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] would do all it can to protect Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. We also discussed the prospects of the forthcoming election in Cambodia. I reconfirmed to the Vietnamese leaders that this election would be held as scheduled, from 23-28 May.

I also informed the Vietnamese leaders of the talks I had during my visit to Cambodia with Prince Sihanouk, as well as with members of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia—the SNC. I also met there the leaders of 20 political parties now campaigning for the Cambodian election. Prince Sihanouk, at my request, agreed to continue and, in practice, to step up his all-round cooperation with the UNTAC and with the United Nations before, during, and after the election. I believe that this great source of support for the United Nations during the forthcoming decisive weeks will be guaranteed.

Two days ago, Prince Sihanouk made a very frank statement in which he sternly criticized the acts of violence occurring in the country and called on the entire Cambodian people to remain calm and practice self-restraint. I welcome this sincere and heartfelt statement.

With regard to the efforts of Vietnam and its renovation policy, I told the Vietnamese leaders that the United Nations would do its utmost to assist Vietnam's national construction. The staff of the UN Development Program [UNDP] in Hanoi has maintained very fine cooperation with the Vietnamese authorities. The UNDP is making active preparations for an international conference—to be held sometime in November 1993—on support and assistance to Vietnam.

I told the Vietnamese leaders that the United Nations would provide full cooperation in order to make this conference a fine success. I also reminded his excellency the Vietnamese foreign minister of the need to make preparations for the 50th founding anniversary of the United Nations. I personally invited him to participate in a summit conference on social development to be held in Copenhagen in early 1995. His excellency the Vietnamese foreign minister affirmed that Vietnam would participate actively and constructively in this summit conference.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the government, the leadership, and the people of Vietnam for having accorded a warm and cordial welcome to me and my entourage. I believe Vietnam will attain great successes in the cause of preserving peace and building a prosperous country in the future. This will contribute significantly to the UN-sponsored cause of peace, stability, and cooperation, not only in the Southeast Asian region but also throughout the world.

I am firmly convinced that the Government and people of Vietnam will achieve great successes.

Thank you, friends.

VNA Cites Sihanouk Reply to Premier's Letter

BK0904145893 Hanoi VNA in English 1428 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 9—In a letter of reply dated April 7 to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet on the question of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC [Supreme National Council], said he had 'many times called on the anti-Vietnam Khmers to immediately stop violating the human rights of Vietnamese civilians in Cambodia'.

Prince Sihanouk stressed: 'Those Vietnamese nationals who wish to stay back in Cambodia are fully entitled to do so. The new government to be established in Cambodia after the general election in May 1993 will negotiate with the Vietnamese Government how to settle the question of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia in a peaceful and friendly manner'.

In his letter dated April 5 to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also on this issue, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, head of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], said he 'fully shared Vietnam's deep concern about the plight of Vietnamese in Cambodia mainly caused by the Democratic Kampuchea faction's unacceptable acts'.

He said: 'The Democratic Kampuchea faction's failure to abide by the provisions of the Paris peace agreement and particularly its refusal to cooperate with UNTAC in creating a neutral political environment for the coming free and equitable election in Cambodia have been condemned by the United Nations Security Council. Their savage acts against your excellency's compatriots, Cambodian civilians and UNTAC's servicemen are utterly unacceptable. I have criticized them in the strongest possible manner in my statements at the SNC and on other occasions'.

Mr Akashi informed P.M. Kiet of 'the concrete measures which UNTAC has applied and the supplementary measures which UNTAC is prepared to carry out in order to better protect Vietnamese residents living in Cambodia'.

Finally, Mr Akashi 'highly appreciated the Vietnamese Government's stand in strictly applying the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia and in fully cooperating with UNTAC to achieve this goal'.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Cambodia Killings

BK1004064693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Hanoi, April 10 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk has said that Vietnamese residents of Cambodia are entitled to stay there—for now, according to a letter to Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet released here Saturday.

A Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman meanwhile condemned the killing of a Japanese U.N. electoral volunteer in Cambodia and warned that the Khmer Rouge would step up its campaign of violence if the world community showed weakness. [passage omitted]

Vietnam also condemned Saturday the killing of a Japanese U.N. electoral supervisor and his Cambodian interpreter, who were detained and then fatally shot Thursday in Kompong Thom province.

"This incident showed once again that the Khmer Rouge clique will not hestitate to put its hand to any crime," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"If we are weak with them, they will make further escalations, seriously sabotaging the peace process and violating the prestige of UNTAC," the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, he said.

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction denied responsibility for the double murder, but it has not ruled out the use of violence to disrupt the campaign for the May 23-27 U.N.-supervised elections in Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Radio Views Khmer Rouge Attacks on UN Forces

BK1004095893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Station commentary on the current situation in Cambodia]

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali arrived in Phnom Penh on Wednesday, starting his 30-hour visit to the country. The UN leader was accompanied by UNTAC chief Akashi. His visit was made at a time when 20 political parties had begun the electoral campaign for the coming general election supervised by the UN.

The election will be held in six weeks despite the Khmer Rouge's refusal to take part. This was the second visit of the UN secretary general since April 1992. Nevertheless, the presence of the UN secretary general in Cambodia did not stop the Khmer Rouge attacking the UN peacekeeping forces.

The French news agency AFP reported that attacks on UN forces in Cambodia occur daily. After the attack on Bulgarian troops on 2 April, about 16 armed terrorists on 3 April attacked the living quarters of the UN civilian police unit in Siem Reap province killing three Cambodians and wounding eight others, including one Hungarian soldier. The attackers burned down dozens of houses in the area.

The following day, 5 April, the Khmer Rouge fired on a Bulgarian unit stationed 70 km away from Phnom Penh. A group of American experts in search of Americans missing in action who had just arrived in Stung Streng from Vietnam were attacked by the Khmer Rouge and they had to give up their mission in Cambodia.

The latest incident was the killing of a Japanese UN electoral official on 8 April, when he was traveling by road toward the provincial capital of Kong Pong Thom from his district, 30 km to the northeast with an interpreter.

Faced with continued attacks on UN peacekeeping forces in Cambodia, the UN Security Council strongly denounced all the attacks on the UN forces affiliated to the UNTAC.

The UN Security Council called on the Cambodian opposition factions to stop immediately these hostile acts, and appealed for effective measures to protect personnel.

Meanwhile, France voiced its protest against these attacks on the UN troops and considered them an obstacle to the implementation of the general election in May. France has expressed grave concern on the development of an insecure atmosphere in Cambodia.

In Tokyo, the chairman of the Diet said attacks on UN troops are creating international concern.

UNHCR: Vietnamese Exodus From Cambodia Slowing

BK1304101293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi, April 13 (AFP)—The flow of ethnic Vietnamese out of Cambodia is slowing and local authorities are managing to provide them with adequate assistance upon arrival, U.N. officials said Tuesday. "By and large the situation is not at all dramatic," said a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] official who recently visited the main crossing point in An Giang province. "The authorities are allowing the people to come in, and they are being assimilated into the local population."

About 16,000 people have arrived in An Giang by boat and 4,000 by road since March 23, the official said, quoting figures provided by local authorities. They form part of an exodus triggered by the March 10 massacre of ethnic Vietnamese fishermen in Cambodia and subsequent grenade attacks on Vietnamese cafes in Phnom Penh.

Hanoi has remained silent on the total size of the exodus, stressing that the solution lies in Cambodia where U.N. forces and Cambodian parties should halt the killings of ethnic Vietnamese. U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali pledged Monday during a visit to Hanoi to redeploy U.N. peacekeepers in Cambodia in part to protect ethnic minorities.

The figure of 16,000 boat people arriving tallies with U.N. estimates of how many have left Cambodia. Tens of thousands more may have left by road over the various land crossings, but most of those are believed to be Vietnamese nationals with relatives to return to in Vietnam. The boat people are more problematic, since many of them have lived by fishing for years in Cambodia, have Cambodian identity papers, or no documentation at all.

Vietnamese authorities have clearly indicated that they want these people to return to Cambodia as soon as it is safe, though the UNHCR official said he had been assured that no one would be forced to return. In An Giang, he said he spotted two clusters of about 80 boats each—about 600 people in all—but "there was no build-up" of refugee craft near the border.

A Vietnamese source said, however, that Vietnam was planning to build a series of "temporary" camps for the refugees that it considered Cambodian. He confirmed that the others were being encouraged to return to their home provinces as soon as they crossed the border.

Radio Faults KR for 'Sabotaging' Paris Accord

BK1304102993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Station commentary: "The Khmer Rouge Is Stubbornly Opposing and Sabotaging the Paris Accord on Cambodia"]

[Text] At a 10 April meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan declared that the Khmer Rouge would not take part in the general election to be held in Cambodia from 23-25 May. He also added that the Khmer Rouge faction would not accept the outcome of the general election. It is this policy which has directed and influenced all the activities of the Khmer Rouge faction. From their daily activities, everyone can see that they are deliberately creating instability in Cambodia to obstruct the general election. This is because, as stipulated by the Paris agreement and the UN Security Council, the general election can only be held in a stable political environment.

The Khmer Rouge has attempted to create instability in Cambodia in many ways, the most prominent of which is to carry out brutal killing of Vietnamese residents and Cambodian people and to launch attacks on UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces. In denying their crimes, the Khmer Rouge leader has resorted to the trick of shifting the misfortune to others. They have repeatedly fabricated stories about the presence of Vietnamese forces in Cambodia and have shrugged off their responsibility for the massacre of Vietnamese residents and the Cambodian people and for the killing of UN troops. However, regardless of how wicked they may be, they can in no way escape public condemnation.

An NHK television correspondent—who was a friend of Japanese UN electoral worker Nakata, 25, who was shot and killed by Khmer Rouge soldiers on 8 April while on his way to Kompong Thom city—recalled that a few days earlier, Nakata had received many telephone calls and many letters from the Khmer Rouge threatening to kill him if he continued to work with the United Nations.

Mr. Akashi, the head of UNTAC, confirmed that three Bulgarian soldiers had been killed by Khmer Rouge troops. He said that on the evening of 2 April, the

Bulgarian soldiers, stationed at Kompong Speu, invited Khmer Rouge troops to come over for a party. The mass killing of 33 Vietnamese residents and the wounding of 29 others at a fishermen's village in Siem Reap Province at midnight on 10 March was also masterminded by the Khmer Rouge. It was Mak Ben, a spokesman for the Khmer Rouge, who clearly pointed out at a news conference a week prior to the attack that the Khmer Rouge would launch attacks along various rivers in this province. And Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan himself also bluntly declared in an interview with a Western journal late last year that there would be a repeat of scenes of Vietnamese corpses floating along the Mekong River, similar to the years when he and his comrades-in-arms were still in power in Cambodia from mid-1975 to early 1979.

The whole world launched a movement to condemn the genocidal crimes of the Khmer Rouge a few years ago and is now initiating another movement to condemn the Khmer Rouge for having created the killing fields. It is believed that the Khmer Rouge's present crimes are more serious than before because this faction does not stop at acts of brutally killing the Cambodians and Vietnamese residents, but has gone so far as killing members of the UN forces, defying international law, and, more specifically, opposing the Paris agreement on Cambodia—an agreement which the world community has spent untold energy and money creating in order to bring about peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

Now there is a test of minds and strength between one side, which is the world community and the patriotic Cambodian people, and the other side, which is the brutal Khmer Rouge faction. The world community has shown its determination not to give in. Faced with the stubborn attitude of the Khmer Rouge, the world community asserts that there should be a guarantee for holding a general election in Cambodia as scheduled and that it will recognize the outcome of the generational election with or without Khmer Rouge participation.

UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said during his recent visit to Cambodia that violence could in no way scare the United Nations and that the election in Cambodia will take place as planned. Therefore, UNTAC must have a high determination to achieve this goal.

Our policy is to do our utmost for the common cause of bringing about peace and national reconciliation for the Cambodian people with a determination not to allow the genocidal regime to make a comeback in Cambodia. We resolutely condemn all criminal acts of undermining the Paris agreement now being carried out by the Khmer Rouge faction in Cambodia.

Envoy to Iraq Meets With Friendship Committee

BK1004073893 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Hanoi VNA April 10—The chairman of the Iraqi Committee for Peace, Friendship and Solidarity, Latif Masif Jasaim, and of the Iraq-Vietnam Friendship Associatiion, Ares Guta, at a recent meeting with the Vietnamese ambassador to Iraq, condemned the Khmer Rouge's savage killings of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and demanded that they stop at once those actions. [passage omitted]

Phan Van Khai Addresses Sixth VFF Conference

BK0904145393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] The sixth conference of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee opened in Hanoi this morning.

Attending the conference were members of the VFF Presidium and Central Committee and chairmen of the front committees from 53 provinces and cities throughout the country. Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai.

The conference concentrated on evaluating the tasks of the front for 1992 and discussing its tasks for 1993, as well as on contributing views to the draft report and draft statutes of the front to be submitted to its fourth congress.

Evaluating the tasks of the front for 1992, Comrade Pham Van Kiet, vice chairman and secretary general of the VFF Central Committee, said:

In 1992, the tasks of the front underwent positive changes and yielded relatively satisfactory results in some areas of activity, thus contributing effectively to the country's achievements and progress in maintaining political stability, fostering socioeconomic development, building up the law-binding state, restoring discipline, and caring for the interests of the people.

The central tasks for the front in 1993 involve consolidating and expanding the all-people great solidarity bloc, launching the movement for action among the people of all strata to join the state in achieving the four targets and 10 tasks set forth for 1993 by the National Assembly, and actively preparing for the fourth congress of delegates of the VFF.

Addressing the conference, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai commended all front organizations for their efforts in 1992 and pointed to the central tasks to be fulfilled by the government this year. He also expressed the hope that the front would coordinate with the government in satisfactorily carrying out all the socioeconomic programs for 1993 and the ensuing years.

In the morning session, the conference also passed a statement of the VFF Central Committee. The statement condemns the atrocious massacres of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia by the Democratic Kampuchea faction and calls for the adoption of effective measures to prevent these barbarous acts of mass killing, as well as to protect the legitimate interests and peaceful life of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia in accordance with international law. The conference will continue it work until 11 April.

Politburo Members Inspect Party Renovation Results

BK0804034193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] On the morning 6 April, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, member of the party Central Committee Politburo and head of party Central Committee Organization Department; Pham The Duyet, member of the party Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee, inspected the results of a program of the municipal public security force party organization for the renovation and rectification of grass-roots party organizations.

Comrade Nguyen Van Tinh, secretary of the municipal party committee and assistant director of the municipal public security force, briefed the delegation. The comrade talked about the implementation of Program No.14 of the municipal party committee within various grass-roots party organizations under the municipal public security force and on significant improvements in work performance and unit-building.

Comrade Le Phuoc Tho and Comrade Pham The Duyet, in their addresses, hailed the progress and urged the many party chapters and party organizations of the municipal public security force to build upon the results of this renovation and rectification drive of the grass-roots party organizations. They suggested this could be done by building steadfast party organizations and providing effective leadership for the maintenance of political security and social order and safety in the capital.

Seminar Held for Private Entrepreneurs

BK0804160093 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 8—A one-day seminar was held here today for private enterpreneurs and economic researchers to make suggestions and recommendations to the government's programme of 'promotion and management of the non-state economic sector in the renovation period'.

The seminar, jointly sponsored by the economic studies review of the National Centre for Social Sciences of Vietnam and the Swedish International Development Authority office in Hanoi, drew by nearly 80 participants including representatives of 18 well-known private enterpreses and businesses in the country such as the 3C Electronic Communication and Informatics Company of Hanoi, the Nguyen Huong Bean Confectionery of Hai Hung Province, the Minh Nghia Company Ltd. of the port city of Haiphong, the Viet Thang mineral water bottling company of Ha Tay Province and the Binh Tien Consumer Goods Company of Ho Chi Minh City.

Counsellor Sven Oppo Allard of the Swedish Embassy in Hanoi was present at the opening ceremony.

The seminar discussed 13 reports and interventions by researchers and private enterpreneurs, which focussed on the various aspects of the development of the non-state economic sector over the past decades, especially during the past few years of the country's economic renovation. The participants also made recommendations and suggestions for the government to adjust and make its policies more suitable for the development of the non-state sector which, according to Prof. Hoang Kim Giao, director of the the med research project, is accounting for one fourth of the state's annual budget.

Paper Calls for Elimination of Prostitution

BK0804102193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 6 Apr 93

[From the Press Review program]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carries an investigative report by Tran Dinh Trinh on the prevention of prostitution. The report said that at present there are 3,000 to 5,000 prostitutes in Hanoi, 80 percent of them coming from other provinces. Ho Chi Minh City, meanwhile, has the largest number of prostitutes working on both a permanent and a temporary basis, but the exact number is unknown because it is difficult to identify those who work on a temporary basis. The report said that if no proper measures are taken, the number of prostitutes in Ho Chi Minh City will reach an unprecedented figure.

The author called for efforts from agencies concerned to step by step take measures to effectively eliminate this social vice. Immediately, they must find out the real number of prostitutes in the city and take administrative measures to force them to give up this profession so as to prevent an increase in their number. The state must allot a budget to take care of, educate, and provide medical treatment, vocational training, and jobs for those who give up prostitution while encouraging them to lead a healthy life in society. Girls who work at tourist centers, bars, and massage parlors must periodically undergo a medical checkup. This is because prostitution is likely to begin at these places.

To effectively curb this social vice, it is necessary to formulate appropriate laws to deal with both prostitutes and their clients. Efforts must be made to disseminate the adverse effects caused by this social vice while encouraging the maintenance of our traditional morals. Most importantly, we must set up a national agency to control, oppose, and coordinate work with the local authorities to eliminate this social evil.

Australia

Protesters Breach Fence at U.S. Military Station

BK1004090493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] At least 30 protesters have been arrested after breaking through a fence of the United States satellite and missile tracking station at Nurrangar in South Australia's far north. Protesters staged the mock auction for the defense and communication equipment by using a 4-m high puppet as the auctioneer. They then followed the puppet over the fence where they were arrested by waiting police and defense personnel.

200 Protesters Arrested

BK1104075693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Police said they have made about 200 arrests today as protesters entered the compound of the Nurrungar Joint Australia-United States Military Installation in the far north of South Australia. According to police at the scene, a number of protesters were injured by police horses and the police dogs. Police is using a helicopter to keep an eye on protesters who breached the outer fence of the installation. Protesters earlier ripped the gate off its hinges and cut fencing in numerous places to enter the compound.

Evans: U.S. Bases Serve Arms Control Role

BK1104080093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0711 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Sydney, April 11 (AFP)—United States military bases in Australia—subject of mass demonstrations over the Easter weekend holiday resulting in hundreds of arrests—serve an important role in arms control verification, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said here Sunday. Evans said in a television interview that the bases, at Narrungar in the mid-north of South Australia and Pine Gap near Alice Springs, performed a "real peace role."

"The whole question of the joint facilities in Australia needs to be re-explained in the post-Cold War era," Evans said of the bases, which are operated by American and Australian personnel. "We're no longer talking about it in quite the same way we were," he said. Though the bases were no longer as important for early warning of nuclear missile launches, "but nonetheless, there's a crucial arms control verification role that these kind of facilities do continue to play, and in a context where we are all concerned about nuclear non-proliferation... there is a real peace role these facilities play." Maybe that message needs to once again be clearly articulated to the peace community," Evans said. [passage omitted]

Total of 277 Protesters Arrested

BK1204094093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] South Australian police say protesters at the joint Australian-American Nurrungar Base in the north of the state were generally well-behaved despite 277 arrests. Senior Sergeant E.N. Robertson says there were no serious clashes with the 500 demonstrators. He says 14 people remained in custody at Port Augusta for refusing to accept condition of bail or (?for reaching) condition of bail. In the latest incident 11 people were arrested last night for trespassing on the base.

Democrats Seek Security Inquiry

BK1304070893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Australian Democrats want a parliamentary inquiry into Australia's security needs. The call follows concern expressed by National Party leader Tim Fischer about the cost of additional security measures for the weekend protest at the Nurrungar joint communications base in South Australia.

Democrats senator Sid Spindler, who was arrested at the protest, says the estimated cost of $15,000 for extra security at the base should be compared with the $7 million it cost the Australian Government to maintain Nurrungar. Senator Spindler says both the government and the peace movement could save money if Australia wasn't stuck in a narrow militaristic move which he says makes it subservient to the foreign power and conflicts with the commitments to international human rights.

Peacekeepers To Leave if KR Stage 'Major' Assault

BK1104073693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 11 Apr 93

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Sydney, April 11 (AFP)—Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans said Sunday his country would withdraw its peacekeeping force from Cambodia if the Khmer Rouge [KR] launched a "full frontal assault" on the United Nations there. Evans, one of the architects of the Cambodian peace plan, said the six weeks until the U.N.-sponsored elections in Cambodia would be "a pretty nerve racking period," but that it was still not clear whether the Khmer Rouge faction was deliberately targetting the peacekeepers. But there is "a determination on the part of the international community to hold its nerve, except in the face of an absolutely unsustainable situation, and we certainly haven't got anywhere near that yet," he stressed.

The faction, blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians between 1975 and 1979, has been blamed for the killings of at least six U.N. soldiers in nine separate attacks. Three were Bulgarians gunned down during a dinner with the Khmer Rouge.

Cambodia goes to the polls next month for its first multi-party election in more than 20 years, but observers say prospects for a peaceful vote remain fragile. The Khmer Rouge, vowing to block the polls, is said to have launched a new campaign of intimidation.

Evans, who has just returned from talks in New York and Washington with U.N officials and the administration of United States President Bill Clinton, urged the international community not to back down in face of the Khmer Rouge. But in an interview on the commercial television Nine Network's Sunday program, the foreign minister said Australia would consider withdrawing its 500 peacekeeping troops if the Khmer Rouge begins a concerted campaign of attacks against U.N. forces.

"We won't be deterred by individual, isolated, sporadic incidents, even perhaps a sequence of them," Evans said. "What will cause us to reconsider our position, and this is true of the international community generally, will be evidence that there is underway some kind of major, systematic, full-frontal assault on the U.N. peacekeepers or on the other parties to the peace accords," he said.

"At the moment there isn't that evidence, and it's not necessary to contemplate that possibility," he added.

Australia was an early member of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is overseeing the country's move to elections in late May.

Evans, a major player in the development of the peace plan for Cambodia drawn up in Paris in October 1991, said he was unaware of rumours that the Khmer Rouge was preparing to launch attacks against Australian members of UNTAC.

"The whole of Phnom Penh is of course abuzz with rumours of one kind or another and there is a degree of concern about the place, obviously, about any evidence at all that the Khmer Rouge might be changing its basic tactic away from non-cooperation toward active assault on the process," Evans said.

"I think, and most of the people I spoke to in New York and Washington over the last few days still think, it's unlikely for a whole variety of reasons, that the Khmer Rouge will have chosen to fundamentally change its appoach in this way," he said. "But anything which throws the process off balance or introduces a note of uncertainty or alarm anywhere is obviously beyond the pale."

Evans said he had gathered from his talks with senior U.N. officials that "there's not much enthusiasm" for changing UNTAC's role from peacekeeping to peace enforcement because such a move would require a change in its Security Council mandate, more troops and a higher degree of risk.

The Khmer Rouge joined three other Cambodian factions in signing the 1991 Paris accords setting up the election process, but has since failed to live up to its promise to disarm and allow free and fair elections.

Evans predicted that even if the worst came to the worst and the U.N. had to withdraw from Cambodia, conflict within the country would be confined to the factions. "China was one of the crucial supporters of the Khmer Rouge through most of the period of its significant role and now that has disappeared from the map, mercifully as a result of the U.N. peace plan," he said.

Polls Show Growing Support for Republic

BK1004091893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 10 Apr 93

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Sydney, April 10 (AFP)—Nationwide support for Australia's severing ties with Britain and becoming a republic has neared 50 percent, according to an opinion poll published at the weekend. National daily The Australian reported on Saturday that its Newspoll showed 46 percent of Australians supported cutting constitutional links with the British monarchy.

However, while the poll showed that the majority remained reluctant to lend emphatic endorsement to Prime Minister Paul Keating's push for a republic, it lent support to other respected polls, which indicate the idea is being favourably considered by up to 70 percent of the nation.

The level of support for a republic identified by the poll the previous weekend of 1,200 people, aged 18 and over across the nation, had more than doubled since a similar survey was conducted in 1987 when 21 percent supported the idea.

Keating's Labor Party was reelected March 13 for a three-year term—it took power in 1983—and advocates that Australia move to become a republic by 2000.

Australia, colonised by Britain in 1788 and granted independence in 1901, recognises the British monarch as its constitutional head of state.

The poll indicated that people under 50 generally supported a change to a republic, with the bias in favour of men over women—53 percent against 33 percent. While Labor supporters favoured the move, with 64 percent indicating their preference for the change, conservative voters were 53 percent opposed.

On changing the flag, which carries the British Union Jack in the top left-hand corner dominating the white stars of the Southern Cross and a federation star against a blue background, 45 percent wanted a new design, with 14 percent in support of a quick change. Another 45 percent insisted the flag not be changed, down nine percent since a similar poll 12 months ago.

The Saulwick poll, commissioned by The Australian's rival Fairfax group on April 1, found that 70 percent of people in the two most populous states of New South Wales and Victoria supported the nation's shift to becoming a republic.

While author Tom Keneally, president of the Republic for Australia movement, indicated Saturday his preference for a woman to become the first president, the opposition Liberal Party was reportedly preparing to highlight the consitutional complexity of a republican move. The Liberals, senior member of the opposition coalition, whose leader John Hewson's attempt to seize power from Labor with a radical economic reform package was rejected by the electorate last month, appear set to defend the rights of the six states.

Under the Australian constitution, the national government in Canberra cedes considerable powers to the states on New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, as well as to two territories—the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Lawyer Darryl Williams, appointed by Hewson as the opposition's shadow attorney general and adviser on constitutional matters, was quoted by The Australian as saying the republican debate was a "diversion" in order to paper over the problems of high unemployment and a considerable balance of payments problem. "Many Australians would probably offer their support for breaking the remaining tenuous links with Britain and appointing a president, but few would vote for a republic which abolished the states or set up an American-style presidency," Williams said.

Keating wants a titular president, whose powers would be strictly limited by the elected parliament.

Senior Liberal parliamentarian Richard Alston said that the opinion poll "tells me people don't want to be aligned with the monarchy, but it doesn't tell me anything about their views on the constitution of the role of the states or the reserve powers of the head of state."

Keneally, who nominated 15 people as possible choices for the first Australian president, said that while his choices "are going to be laughed out of court ... they are tokens of the fact that the Australian hinterland has overwhelmingly more talent than the House of Windsor has displayed."

His nominees include the wives of former prime ministers—Hazel Hawke, Tammy Fraser and Margaret Whitlam—as well as Aboriginal actor Ernie Dingo and merchant banker Malcolm Turnbull, "if he could stand the decline in income."

It was Keating's predecessor, Bob Hawke, who launched during the 1988 bicentenary a debate to consider an overhaul of the nation's constitution at the end of the millenium, but it is the current leader who has pushed the republican debate to the fore.

66 Percent of Citizens Want Republic

BK1204032493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0215 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Sydney, April 12 (AFP)—An opinion poll published Monday indicated that two-thirds of Australians supported the idea of severing ties with Britain and establishing a republic. The Saulwick poll, commissioned by Melbourne daily The Age, showed that 66 percent of people questioned last week said they were pro-republic, compared with 30 percent pro-monarchy and four percent undecided. The Age said those wanting a republic still preferred Australia to remain in the Commonwealth.

A similar survey taken last May showed that 56 percent of people were in favour of the republic, indicating a 10 percent increase in support. Results of a Newspoll published by national daily The Australian on Saturday showed 46 percent nationwide supported a republic.

Australia, colonised by Britain in 1788 and granted independence in 1901, recognises the British monarchy as its constitutional head of state. Prime Minister Paul Keating, whose Labor Party was returned to power at March 13 elections, advocates Australia move towards becoming a republic by the year 2000.

Canberra 'Cannot Take Sides' Between PNG, Solomons

BK1104090093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans says while Australia has voiced its concern over recent border incursion into Solomon Islands by Papua New Guinea [PNG] troops, Australia cannot take sides on the issue. Speaking in a television interview in Australia, Senator Evans said information received by his department indicated that the raids were initiated by local military without proper authorization from military chief of the PNG government. He said Australia can now only monitor the situation between its two neighbors.

[Begin Evans recording] We certainly made representation to the PNG government, as recently as yesterday, making very clear our concern about anything that does involve a cross border incursion of the type that's been reported. We can do really no more than that. We do of course continue to give very large budgetary support to PNG and other forms of aid, including defense cooperation, as indeed we do with the Solomon Islands; but we have to try to be good neighbor to both countries and we can't interfere more than that. [end recording]

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Rebels Offer Cease-Fire to Government

BK1204082493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The secessionist rebels on Bougainville have offered Papua New Guinea [PNG] a cease-fire. Sean

Dorney reports from Port Moresby that the Bougainville Revolutionary Army says it will agree to stop hostilities to allow a fact finding mission from the International Commission of Jurists to visit the island.

[Begin Dorney recording] In a four-year history of the Bougainville war there has been only one cease-fire observed by both sides. That was three years ago and it preceded the entire withdrawal of PNG security forces. They are back in greater force than ever now and there has been no official reaction yet to this latest ceasefire offer.

In a statement released in the Solomon Islands' capital, Honiara, the three principle figures in the secessionist government—(Prince Sasaina), Sam Kauona, Joseph Kabui—are quoted as saying they belived that a fact-finding mission from international commission of jurists would be a constructive initiative towards ending the war and finding a lasting peace. They have called on PNG to begin negotiation and accept what they call the hand of international expertise. [end recording]

Wingti To Visit Australia To Improve Relations

BK1304065293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Papua New Guinea's [PNG] Prime Minister Paias Wingti is to make a four-day visit to Australia next month. Mr. Wingti's office says the prime minister will use the visit to assure Australia of the importance PNG attaches to relations between the two countries. Mr. Wingti will begin his visit on May the 11th.

Solomon Islands

Tension Eases Along PNG Border After 'Incursion'

BK1204093093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tension has reported to have eased along the sea border between Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea [PNG] following last week's incursion by PNG troops. In a dispatch from Honiara, THE PACIFIC SERVICE says tension reached flash point when the PNG troops landed on the Solomon Island of (Oima) near Bougainville last Thursday, raised the PNG flag, and declared sovereignty over the island. The Solomon Islands' Police Commissioner (Frederick So-arki) says PNG troops have now withdrawn and cross border tension has eased. (Mr. So-arki) says additional affairs police have been deployed and patrols in the border region have been increased. The PNG Government have made no official comment on the incident.

Premier Seeks Canberra's Help Against PNG Raids

BK1304092093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Solomon Islands prime minister, Solomon Mamaloni, has appealed for Australia's help to defend his country's border with Papua New Guinea's [PNG] troubled island of Bougainville. South Pacific correspondent Jemima Garreth says the appeal follows two recent serious cross border incursions by PNG soldiers.

Without a military force of its own, Mr. Mamaloni said Solomons was in desperate need of assistance. In particular, the prime minister said Solomons needed small boats to police the border and would like Australian personnel to join an international border force, an idea already rejected by Canberra. Mr. Mamaloni said that although he had asked about Australian assistance a number of times he had not been able to get a clear idea of Canberra's intentions.